Samsung Galaxy

Volume 2

- ✔ S Hub
- ✔ Google Play
- ✔ Cloud storage
- ✔ ROM hacks
- ✔ S apps

Tips, Tricks, Apps & Hacks

Unlock the potential of your Samsung Galaxy device

450 essential hints and tips inside

Welcome to Samsung Galaxy

Tips, Tricks, Apps & Hacks

In only a few years, the Samsung Galaxy has become the most popular Android device on the market. They come in almost any size from the smaller Mini to the bigger Note. They are devices that offer you access to over a million apps in the Google Play Store and this book will offer you a look at some of the greatest on the market and what you can use them for. The tips section is filled with useful every day requirements from customising the look of your phone to helping you conserve battery life. The trick section offers you that little bit more, with an in-depth look at what you can use your Samsung Galaxy for; plan your journeys before you travel with the Waze app, or learn how to read sheet music with Music Flashcards. For those who are so inclined, there is a section dedicated to hacking your Galaxy, give your device better sound quality using a custom ROM or remove the unwanted system apps installed to all Galaxies. We aim to cater for your every need so we've featured apps from all 24 categories in the Play Store to cater for your entertainment, travel and reference needs as well as exploring the best comic apps and the best ways to connect via social media.

Here's hoping you enjoy the book!

Samsung Galaxy

Tips, Tricks, Apps & Hacks

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IMAGINE PUBLISHING

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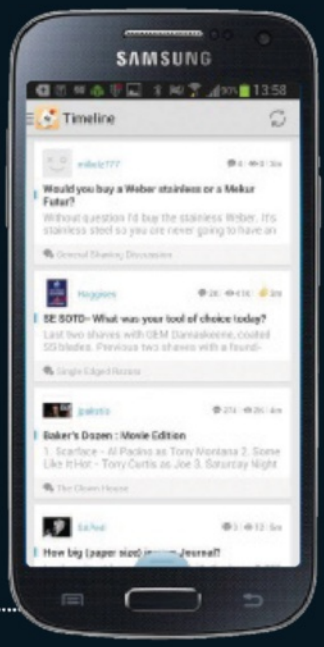
101 BEST EVER ANDROID APPS!

We've selected the very best from the Google Play store to give you an essential download list

Stay social with these apps

Facebook is great, but there are other social apps worth checking out…



1 Carbon for Twitter

Price: Free

What makes Carbon stand out from every other Twitter client is its sheer simplicity and sleek design. All your feeds can be accessed with just a few different swipes and you can also interact with any tweet you see. Carbon also includes an in-app internet browser and YouTube player for you to enjoy all the content that is shared by the people you follow.

2 Facebook

Price: Free

Although the first few releases of the official Facebook app weren't up to scratch, recently the app has come on leaps and bounds. It's easier than ever to navigate your news feed and interact with any posts that are of interest, while also using the sidebar to check who's online. Using the upload feature you can also add media files to your profile.

3 Soundcloud

Price: Free

Discovering new music from up and coming bands is easy in Soundcloud, with the app also offering free music streaming directly from the cloud. As you begin to use the app more, Soundcloud will begin recommending new artists and offer a messaging service that can be used to talk to other users with similar music tastes.

4 HaxSync for Facebook

Price: £0.89/$0.99

HaxSync focuses on the syncing side of your Facebook account, enabling users to set up how often they want their account to sync with their phone. It also includes a handy face recognition tool that can automatically crop contact images you wish to attach to your account or to the People app on your phone to make them recognisable.

5 Tapatalk Pro

Price: £1.92/$2.99

No matter what your interests are, Tapatalk Pro can help you discover internet communities where you can chat and message people with similar interests to you, whether that's GTA V or next year's World Cup in Brazil. In total there are over 50,000 different communities to interact and get involved with. With so much on offer, you're never quite sure what you'll find on a daily basis. Essentially, that's what makes this app a worthy download.

6 Vine

Price: Free

Who thought sharing six-second videos could be so much fun? The Vine app enables users to record quick clips that are then shared to their various friends and followers on the Vine app. Profiles can be customised to your exact specifications and it's easy to discover new friends using the search and recommendation tools provided.

7 Sliding Messaging Pro

Price: £1.24/$1.99

Although loosely based on the stock messaging app, Sliding Messaging Pro offers a cleaner, faster and generally easier messaging experience.

8 LinkedIn

Price: Free

If you're on the hunt for a new job, then share your work history on LinkedIn. This professional social network is a great place to advertise your skills and discover career opportunities.

Apps for entertaining kids

Your Samsung Galaxy device can be the perfect time-wasting tool, but it can teach young eyes a thing or two

9 Dr Seuss's ABC

Price: £2.56/$3.99

Kids can learn the basics of the alphabet in this enchanting tale from Dr Seuss. To encourage word association, tapped words expand and only shrink back to normal size once pronounced correctly.

10 colAR Mix

Price: Free

Using the colAR Mix colouring book, children can colour the included pictures and then scan the finished product with the app to bring their creations to life in beautifully animated 3D worlds.

11 Gomma Friends

Price: £0.60/$2.99

This innovative application includes a variety of colourful characters that any child can interact with to not only learn from, but also help them explore, assemble and use their imagination.

12 The Shape Monster

Price: Free

Not only will your kids get to learn about various shapes, they'll also get to interact and talk to the friendly Shape Monster. A great tool for kids aged two and above.

13 Dipdap

Price: £1.99/$2.99

Dipdap comes with 16 different adventures that unfold as your child draws the objects needed by Dipdap to complete every mission he undertakes. It's quite silly, but absorbing nevertheless.

News and magazines

Get the news you want, when you want

14 Press

Price: £1.93/$2.99

RSS feeds are commonplace on many of the web's most popular sites, so having an RSS reader app is pretty essential. Press is the best of the bunch, offering users a simple way to pull together content from their favourite websites into one place, without having to trawl through individual sites. Feeds are saved by specific and targeted keywords, so no matter what sort of content you're looking for, you'll find exactly what you're after. Ideal for use on the go, you can also save articles for offline reading.

15 Flipboard

Price: Free

This app was built into the Galaxy S3 and is ideal for the S4's AirView feature, Flipboard takes the best bits of print and digital media and combines them. A slick interface showcases image-driven content like a glossy magazine would, while a quick swipe of your finger, like the flicking of pages in a book, allows you to move between stories. All content is drawn in from your social networks and favourite sites, ensuring you get breaking news your interested in, as it happens.

16 Pocket Casts

Price: £2.70/$3.99

If you love listening to podcasts, Pocket Casts is a great way to manage your library, with clean up features and auto-download to make sure you don't miss a shows. There's also a series of social features which lend themselves well to people who want to see what others are listening to.

17 Bacon Reader Premium

Price: £1.23/$1.99

Above all else, what makes BaconReader by far the best Reddit feed you can download, is just how simple it's to navigate through the multitude of content available on Reddit's various boards. You can use your account to leave comments on different threads and also start your own topic of conversation too.

18 Instapaper

Price: £1.93/$2.99

This stripped-back app's sole aim is to provide a simple way to store and read any webpages you earmark for later while browsing the web. Each story is formatted to fit into Instapaper's design and users can also customise the text to make it easier to view. Download up to 500 articles on your device, or store as many as you like in the cloud.

19 Zite

Price: Free

Despite being a fairly overlooked app, this free download is one of the most intelligent reader apps on the Google Play store. For the most part, Zite is an interactive magazine, filled with content you've handpicked to be included within it, but the app soon begins to predict headlines you'll like, analysing millions of articles to select those that fit your previous search history.

Apps for hackers

Got a rooted device? Then you need to download these essential apps

20 Titanium Backup

Price: Free

Titanium Backup is the one-stop download to back up, restore and freeze any apps and external data stored on your phone or SD card. If you're into the hacking scene, this is a must-have.

21 ROM Manager

Price: Free

For many, ROM Manager is the staple application for their rooted Android device. Not only can you use it to install various ROMs, but also use it to flash to the ever-popular ClockworkMod recovery.

22 ROM Toolbox Pro

Price: £3.50/$4.99

Avid hackers will want to explore ROM Toolbox Pro's range of apps and services it includes in-app to help manage and tinker with any ROMs and their installations.

23 Greenify

Price: £1.99/$2.99

Greenify can extend your rooted phone's battery life to save you reaching for your charger by identify juice-draining apps. It targets and block apps that run in the background and hog your memory.

24 Voltage Control Extreme

Price: £2.07/$3.36

If you're keen to overvolt your device, then download this simple tool. Voltage Control Extreme allows you to get the voltage you want quickly using sliders.

Tools for productivity

Work anywhere with these essential apps

25 Minuum Price: £2.48/$3.99

The keyboard is a commonly overlooked part of your device, but Minuum offers a unique way to type out messages by incorporating a variety of simple gestures.

26 Google Drive Price: Free

Cloud storage apps are commonplace, with Drive being our favourite. Add any sort of file to the cloud and then access and edit it on your desktop computer or other Android device.

27 Draft Price: £1.69/$2.49

With Draft you can create, edit and share text files, while also using its tools to make sure your documents stand out. Each document can be shared with a plethora of cloud accounts.

28 Genius Scan+ Price: £2.24/$3.00

By using Genius Scan+ and your phone's camera, you can quickly scan documents and create a PDF. Your scanned docs can then be saved to the cloud and accessed anywhere.

29 ES File Explorer Price: Free

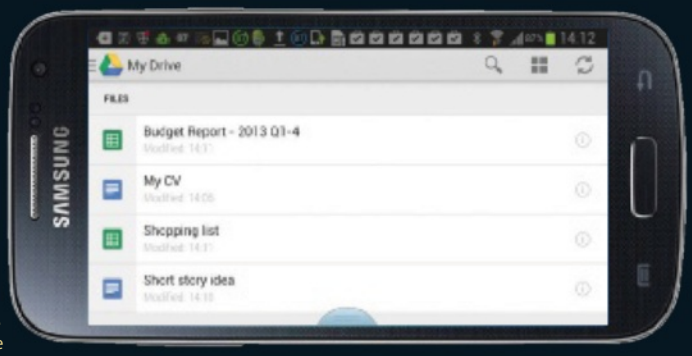
If you really want to explore your phone, then ES File Explorer is an easy way to find and manage hidden files. You can also play your music and video files with the built-in media player.

30 Glowfly Price: £0.63/$0.99

For an easier way to view text messages, use Glowfly's pop-up alerts feature to add text previews to your homescreen. It's really easy to use and is even compatible with Google Voice.

31 Pocket Informant Price: £6.45/$9.99

Pocket Informant is the ultimate aide if you need a place to store all your appointments and notes in one place. You can import notes from other calendars as well as create new ones.



Access and edit your files anywhere with Google Drive

Apps for Travel

Get from A to B in style

32 Maps Price: Free

Wherever you are in the world, Maps doesn't just provide the best directions, it can also provide you with live traffic info and street view images.

33 TripAdvisor Price: Free

Be it a restaurant, hotel or local attraction, TripAdvisor offers honest reviews. It also offers contact details for and directions to each location.

34 CoPilot Premium Europe

Price: £34.99/$49.99

This Satnav app is easy to set up and provides the quickest route available and offline maps.

35 XE Currency Pro Price: £1.28/$1.99

Convert every world currency with this lightning-fast and extremely detailed app. A great way to plan how much money you'll need to take abroad.

36 FlightTrack Price: £3.20/$4.99

Track incoming and outgoing flights from all of the world's major airports with FlightTrack. There's also a live feed to see the status of your aircraft.

37 SpeedView Pro Price: £1.85/$1.99

Using your phone's GPS, this app provides an accurate speedometer, showing your current and average speed as well as distance travelled.

38 AccuWeather Platinum

Price: £1.92/$2.99

This download provides a 25-day forecast, issues health warnings, and includes a range of widgets.

39 Skyscanner Price: Free

Ideal for last-minute journeys and travelling on a shoestring, Skyscanner is a search engine that finds the best deals for flights around the world.

40 Maverick Pro Price: £3.23/$4.99

Maverick Pro is perfect for people who enjoy long walks and hiking, providing maps and co-ordinates to some of the world's most mountainous regions.

41 Hotel Tonight Price: Free

If you urgently need somewhere to kip, this is the best platform for finding a last-minute room, no matter what your budget might be.

Media and music

Get more from your media files with these apps

SunVox shows just how powerful Android can be

42 VLC for Android Beta Price: Free

Your device won't recognise every file extension, but any media file you want to watch is catered for with this app. Instead of trawling through your SD card to find videos, be sure to use the app's media library.

43 TuneIn Radio Pro Price: £4.49/$6.99

Featuring over 10,000 radio stations, listening to all the shows that are recommended to you might seem like a problem. But TuneIn includes a record function so that you don't have to worry about schedule conflicts.

44 iSyncr for iTunes Price: £2.99/$3.99

Syncing your iTunes library to your device is easy to complete with the iSyncr app. The process is quick to complete and after transferring across, you'll find all your songs and created playlists readily available to stream.

45 VidTrim Pro Price: £2.50/$3.97

Budding video editors will want to take advantage of the plethora of tools available in VidTrim Pro, from adjust clips to adding effects. Best of all, it includes a great tutorial system to help those new to editing.

46 Vaulty Stocks Price: £3.09/$4.99

Despite its odd name, Vaulty Stocks is a superb app for keeping your photos, videos and other media files from prying eyes. Doubling up as a gallery, it's a one-stop shop for storing and viewing your media in private.

47 Songo Price: £1.24/$1.97

This simple music theory app is designed to help guitarists discover and group chords together. By playing your guitar with the app open, it will pick up the chords you're trying to play and suggest improvements.

48 BubbleUPnP Price: Free

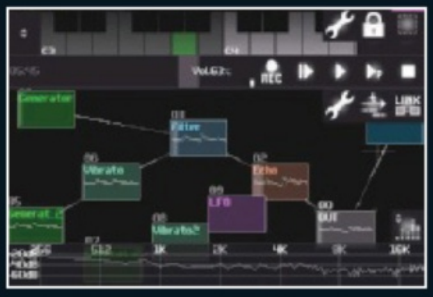
This app acts as a gateway for you to stream your mobile media directly to any DLNA-enabled product. It works in reverse too, with BubbleUPnP able to stream content from your TV and games console.

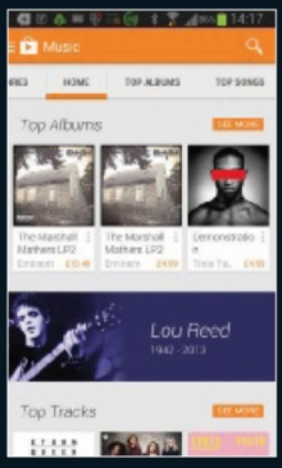
49 YouTube Price: Free

YouTube is still the undisputed king for video sharing. Recent updates have refined features, with a brilliant new pop-up video window addition so users can watch videos without needing to be in the app itself.

50 SunVox Price: £3.89/$5.99

Music creation tools don't come much more advanced than SunVox, which not only works on your phone, but can also be synced with your desktop computer or iOS device so you can edit your tracks wherever you are or whatever platform your using. It's very advanced, to say the least, and some of the software and tools available to you might leave you feeling baffled if you aren't used to advanced audio creation tools, but any aspiring DJ will feel right at home here with what's on offer in this top download.



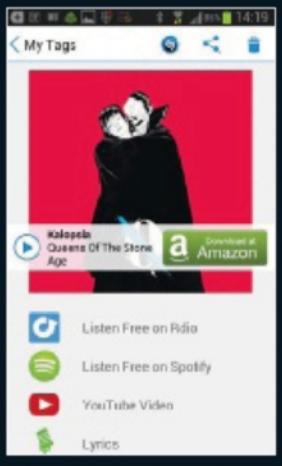


51 Google Play Music Price: Free

Play Music offers a clean and functional music player for all the music stored on your device. It can hold up to 20,000 songs in the cloud, which can help free up some of your device's internal storage. The new All Access subscription services provides users with an extra 10 million songs and albums to explore. Best of all, it merges both your personal record collection and music subscriptions into one place so that you don't need to switch between libraries.

52 Shazam Encore Price: £3.59/$5.59

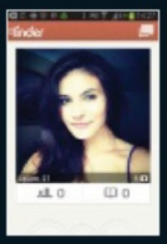
If you've ever been caught humming a tune but not being able to remember the actual lyrics, the Shazam app is exactly what you need. By scanning a song while it's playing with the Shazam app, it'll provide you with the details of the song you're listening and links to where you can purchase it online. It's not infallible, but compared to the competition, Shazam Encore is by far and away the best music recognition app out there.



Essential everyday apps

Great apps for everyday situations

53 Tinder Price: Free



Tinder is a great way to meet people in your area, with the app using your phone's GPS to match you with people in your vicinity who you can begin a conversation with and continue messaging. It also links with Facebook, so you can see details on other people.

54 Out of Milk Price: £1.24/$1.99

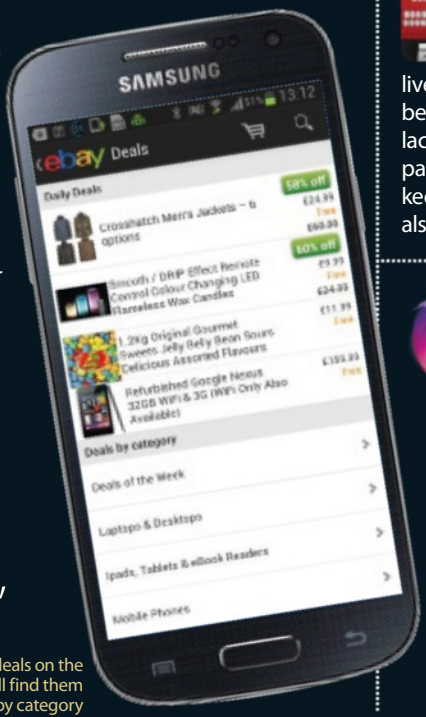
If you've ever forgotten your list while shopping, then Out of Milk is a handy app to download. You can add groceries to your list at any point and simply swipe through them once you've added it to your basket. Back up to the app's cloud to save your lists online.

55 Ancestry Price: Free

Not only can you discover more about your family tree through Ancestry, it also enables you to make contact with relatives you never knew existed. The detail you can go into is phenomenal and the accompanying desktop software means you can sync between devices.

56 eBay Price: Free

What hasn't already been said about eBay that's worth mentioning here? The Android app remains one of the most-popular and best-rated downloads on the Google Play store, with everyone looking for a bargain through millions of different items.



Catch the daily deals on the eBay app, you'll find them sorted by category

"The eBay Android app remains one of the most-popular"

57 Coach's Eye Price: £3.30/$4.99

Coach's Eye is one of the more advanced apps on the Play Store, as it uses tracking software to help improve sports performance. Record and playback what athletes are doing in slow-motion and add playbook-like notes and audio commentary. You can also export and share videos online, as well as download training tips other coaches choose to make accessible.

58 Tumblr Price: Free

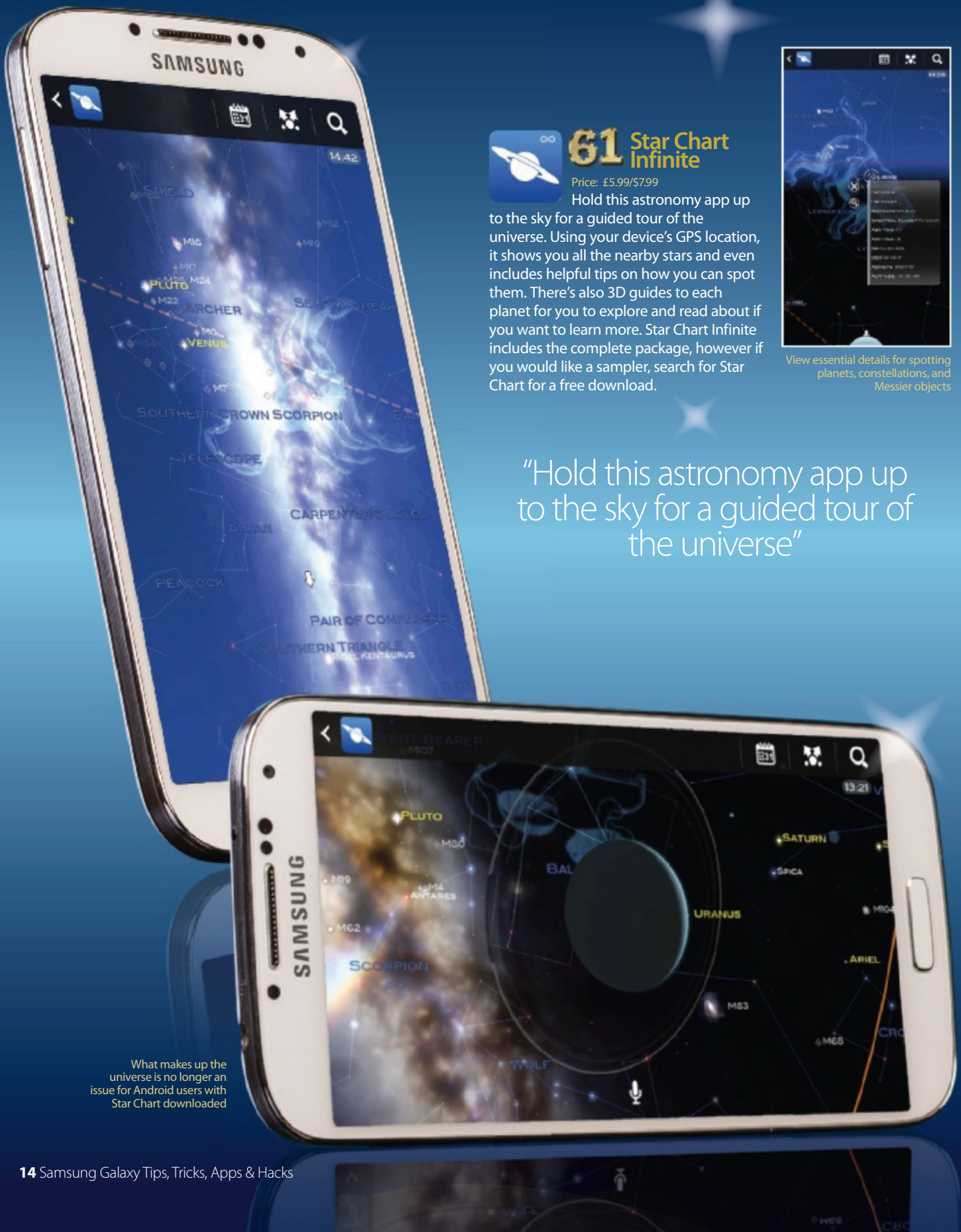
Despite the popularity of other blogging apps, Tumblr still remains the best and most versatile blogging platform available for Android users. The app enables you to create everything from text to video posts through an intuitive menu system. There's also a great follow mode, which enables users to track their favourite blogs and interact with their created posts.

59 ScoreCenter Price: Free

No matter what sport you have a keen interest in, ScoreCenter gives live updates on your favourite teams and leagues, be it from the NFL, soccer leagues or even lacrosse. If you're a diehard of one team in particular, you can set up specific updates. To keep up with a game in real-time, ScoreCenter also uses live stats for you to track progress.

60 Timely Alarm Clock Price: Free

Timely is a beautifully made alarm clock for both Android phones and tablets, which uses an intuitive cloud system to enable you to sync your alarms across multiple Android devices. Setting an alarm is really easy to do and you can then implement your own design and look of the alarm to your own specification. Every alarm you create can be repeated at any point in time, thanks to the app's clever reminder system, which keeps a virtual log of each and every alarm you create through it. Each alarm can then be customised with one of the bespoke alarm tones available through the application to make sure you wake up at the right time for work in the morning. Just be careful you don't use the snooze function too often!



What makes up the universe is no longer an issue for Android users with Star Chart downloaded

61 Star Chart Infinite

Price: £5.99/$7.99

Hold this astronomy app up to the sky for a guided tour of the universe. Using your device's GPS location, it shows you all the nearby stars and even includes helpful tips on how you can spot them. There's also 3D guides to each planet for you to explore and read about if you want to learn more. Star Chart Infinite includes the complete package, however if you would like a sampler, search for Star Chart for a free download.

View essential details for spotting planets, constellations, and Messier objects

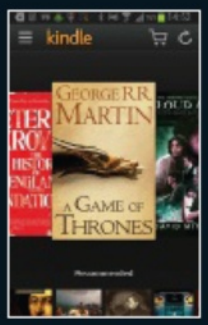
"Hold this astronomy app up to the sky for a guided tour of the universe"

The best education apps

Boost your brain power with these top learning apps

62 Kindle

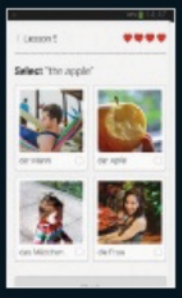
Price: Free



Not only does the Kindle app include a superb built-in reader for users to explore, not many realise it also caters for documents, PDFs as well books. Thanks to its Amazon association, you'll also be able to purchase and download any educational books directly into the Kindle app and hold a pocket-sized, virtual collection of your most-loved fictional and non-fiction works.

63 Duolingo

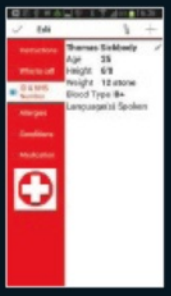
Price: Free



Learning a new language can seem a daunting task, but Duolingo makes the whole process a bit easier. Framing spoken and written vocabulary exercises as mini-games, Duolingo can help teach you words, phrases and sentences over the course of a few weeks. Earning points along the way, compete against friends to see who can get the highest scores.

64 ICE: In Case of Emergency

Price: £2.99/$3.99



First aid is an important skill to know, and ICE could help you save a life . Each detailed diagram acts as a tutorial for you to understand how to cope with the situation successfully and what to do if any other problems arise. For rapid response in a crisis, the app can also store and quick-dial emergency contact details.

65 Operation Math

Price: £1.25/$1.99

Part game, part textbook, this app explains everything from simple maths techniques to algebra and equations in a way kids can realte to. The superb storyline that flows through the app makes a typically dry subject a lot more fun, without compromising on the same level of detail you would find in more serious download. Each time you use the app you can set a checklist of what you want to learn.

66 Learnist

Price: Free

Learnist brings together many of the web's premier education sites in one place. You can sort recommended articles, news stories and opinion pieces into different subjects or even share them with friends. As you begin to use it more, you'll find Learnist will begin to recommend articles and educational sites relevant to your particular interests.

67 GWiki - Wikipedia for Android

Price: Free

Although Wikipedia is the internet's encyclopedia, the official app isn't really up to scratch. GWiki offers the same level of functionality as the desktop site, but offers a better presented way of viewing it on mobile. Articles can be shared with read-it-later services like Pocket for offline use when it suits you.

Apps for photography nuts

Smartphone photography is big business. Here's five of the best apps to accompany your shooter

68 Instagram

Price: Free

This photo-sharing app is still very much going strong, with millions of users uploading and rating vintage-effect photos every day. If you want people to see your best photos, this is the perfect place to start.

69 Lapse It

Price: Free

Creating stop motion videos out of your photographs can be tricky, but Lapse It makes the process a lot easier with a wide range of features. This is an award-winning app, and it's easy to see why.

70 PicFrame

Price: £0.62/$0.99

PicFrame helps you combine up to four of your favourite photos into a collage, which you can then send to your friends. Each quarter of the frame can be customised to create a unique work of art.

71 Photo Editor by Aviary

Price: Free

Whether you want to add a different effect, alter the contrast or perform a simple tweak to your photos, then Photo Editor by Aviary is definitely an app worth investing it.

72 Adobe Photoshop Touch

Price: £6.99/$9.99

For those serious about image editing, Photoshop is the only option to consider. It isn't as feature-laden as the desktop version, but it still packs a lot in.

Tools

Make your Samsung even more useful

73 AirDroid Price: Free

After a lengthy installation, AirDroid can be used to control your phone from any desktop computer, even giving you access to your SMS messages.

74 Smart Tools Price: £1.65/$2.50

With 15 tools this app is perfect for any problme, whether it's finding true north, measuring a bookcase or working out an angle.

75 SeekDroid: Find My Phone Price: £3.27/$4.99

This app not only tracks your phone's location, but can also remotely wipe any sensitive data from it.

76 Zooper Widget Pro Price: £0.99/$1.99

From telling the time to the weather, adding functions to your home screen with this highly customisable app and widget combo.

77 My Data Manager - Data Usage Price: Free

If you phone contract has a strict data allowance, this app will notify you if you're close to your limit.

78 Avast! Mobile Security Price: Free

This suite is easy to set up and routinely scans your phone for any malware attacks or virus infections.

79 My Backup Pro Price: £3.19/$4.99

Great for new users, this app makes it easy to schedule regular backing up of all your files either to MyBackup Pro's cloud servers or to your SD card.

80 Folder Organizer Price: £0.89/$1.49

Group your apps, bookmarks and contacts together into folders, so that you can find them quickly when you actually need them.

81 Clean Master Price: Free

This thorough download scans each and every part of your device to find areas in which you can save some of your internal storage.

82 Tasker Price: £2.99/$2.99

Save time by setting hundreds of actions, such as switching off Wi-Fi or opening an app, to occur dependent on your location or time of the day.

Best for business

Run a mobile business with these top downloads

83 Quickoffice Price: Free

Whether you want to create text documents, spreadsheets or presentations, Quickoffice is one of the best, and free, suites you can download. It's easy to use and syncs between devices and other office suites, enabling you to edit them wherever you are.

84 PrinterShare Price: £8.45/$12.95

Print anytime, anywhere with PrinterShare. You can scan for printers near you and set PrinterShare to print off any documents, emails, PDFs or images you may want a copy of at any given time. For convenience, the app saves your printer passwords.

85 Zoho Invoice and Time Tracking Price: Free

Send and print invoices for your work to make sure you get paid on time with Zoho. A great storage system makes it easy to track your entire invoice history and see your monthly incomings and outgoings.

86 Splashtop 2 Remote Desktop Price: Free

Forgotten an important file on the way to a meeting? Access your office PC no matter where you're located with Splashtop. All files can be edited and shared in-app and you also link with multiple desktops, so you can access your home computer as well.

87 Box Price: Free

The simplicity of Box is what makes it not only a fantastic cloud storage account to sign up for, but also a great app. It caters for nearly all file types and can be accessed on your phone, tablet or desktop computer. Store up to 10GB without paying a thing.

88 ABBYY Business Card Reader Price: £6.50/$9.99

Forget manually adding new clients to your Contacts, just scan their business cards with ABBYY Reader. The app also scans social media for clients' names, so that you can network with them online as well.

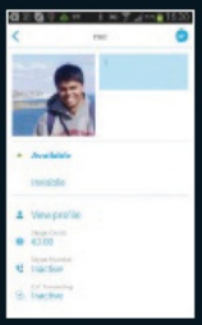
89 MailChimp for Android Price: Free

MailChimp combines some great tracking software, alongside numerous other features to provide a sophisticated way of tracking email and newsletter campaigns you've created and see general user interaction. With the data it provides, MailChimp also offers tips and tricks to improve your circulation.

Store up to 10GB with out paying a thing with Box, the effortlessly simple appp

Communication

Don't forget the real reason for owning a phone…



90 Skype Price: Free

With over 250 million people using Skype, Skype's popularity is clear to see and for good reason too. As well as sending free instant messages to people, Skype is best used for making video calls between different devices across any device or desktop. Video messaging is completely free, making it a great alternative to costly international calls. An often overlooked feature, but one that can also be highly useful, is that it's entirely possible to also make regular telephones calls to mobiles and landlines in-app - often for a fraction of the normal price.

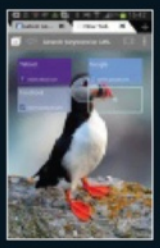
Skype is a well-respected app and it's easy to see why it has 250 million users

91 WhatsApp Messenger Price: Free

WhatsApp faces strong competition from the likes of Viber and Google Hangouts, but it still remains the premier app for those who want to instant messaging and a simple and free way to send images and files. It has the added benefit of having no international charges for sending messages, and there's even a group feature for you to chat with multiple contacts at once.

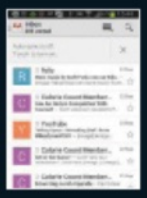
92 Puffin Web Browser Price: £1.99/$2.99

Puffin may not be the household name when it comes to mobile browsing, but its steady rise in popularity is duly justified. Not only does it sport fast loading speeds, it includes a built-in game player for any Flash games you want to play and a range of add-ons to extend its capabilities even further. It should be said that it's not the prettiest interface, but Puffin is still a great option.



93 Gmail Price: Free

Let's face facts: Gmail is the best email client by far on the Android OS. Not only is it easy to use, it can also be used to merge together accounts so that you can track emails from any associated Google account.



94 Air Display

Price: £6.58/$9.99

With Air Display you can extend your desktop computer screen onto your smartphone or tablet. You still have full access to all your computer's files and such, while also being able to make use of your smartphone's touchscreen controls to switch between menus and open up programs.

95 Tablet Talk: SMS & Texting App

Price: £1.93/$2.99

When using Galaxy Tab, keep your smartphone in your pocket. This app pairs the devices together and redirects all of your SMS messages and phone calls through its sleek, tablet interface. It works in both portrait and landscape orientation.

Apps for customising your device

The essential apps for tweaking your Samsung Galaxy's background

96 Notif

Price: Free

Make more use of your notifications menu with Notif.The apps reminders and notes to the feature, all of which can be edited and removed by simply swiping them away.

97 Nova Launcher Prime

Price: £2.60/$4.00

Nova replaces your stock Android launcher, providing lots of new themes and features. Add gestures to make using your phone easier.

98 Missed it!

Price: £1.20./$1.57

By adding Missed It! to your homescreen, you'll be able to see how many missed calls, texts and unread emails you received while away from your device.

99 Quad Drawer

Price: £0.79/$0.99

Quad Drawer combines your app drawer with a predictive keyboard, making it easier to find a specific app amongst the hundreds you've downloaded.

100 Backgrounds HD

Price: Free

If you're bored of the built-in wallpapers, try the thousands of stunning images and themes collected together in this app. Best of all, it's completely free!

101 Floating Notifications

Price: £1.27/$2.04

This app adds interactive tiles to your screen when you receive a new notification on your device. Resize and interact with them as you see fit.

Tips

Get the very best from your Samsung device by exploring its full range of functions

20 Customisation
Make your device look how you want

24 Productivity
Use your Galaxy as your office suite

28 Security
Turn your Samsung into a fortress

32 Email
Receive your emails on the run

36 Browsing
Surf the internet from anywhere

40 Cloud
Access your files remotely

44 Entertainment
Watch films and TV on your phone

48 Music
Stream music to your Samsung Galaxy

52 Movies and video
Make the most out of videos

56 Photography
Learn about the extra camera features

60 S Hubs
Access mutlimedia content in the Hub

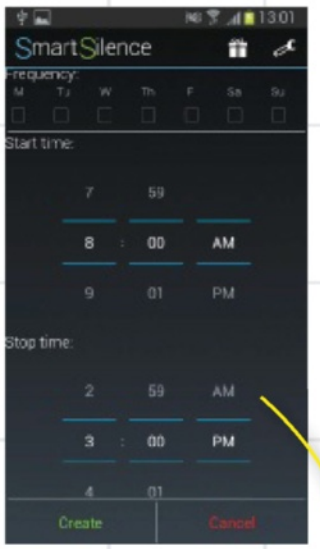
64 S Apps
Organise your life with Samsung's S Apps

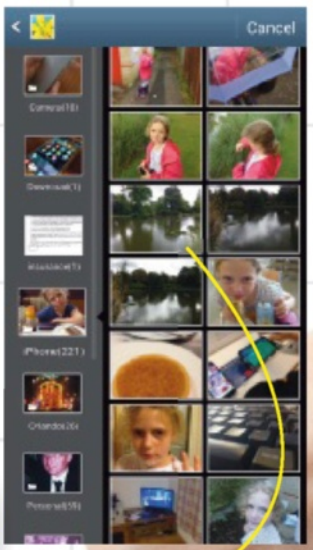
68 Social networking
Stay connected from your device

72 Travel and navigation
Let your Galaxy guide the way

76 Performance
Remove clutter from your Samsung

80 Battery
Get better battery life out of your device





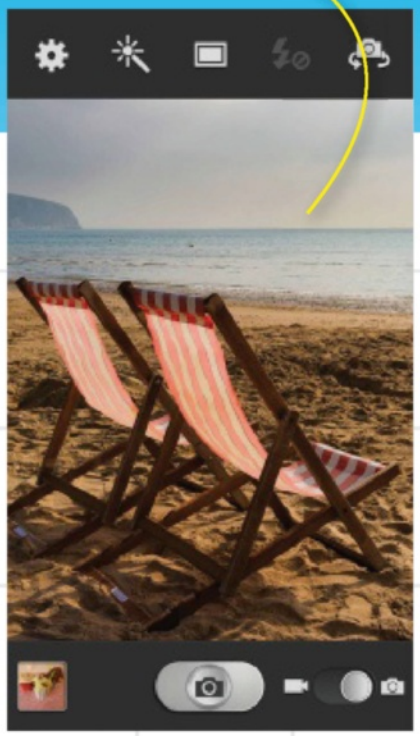
20 Customise your device

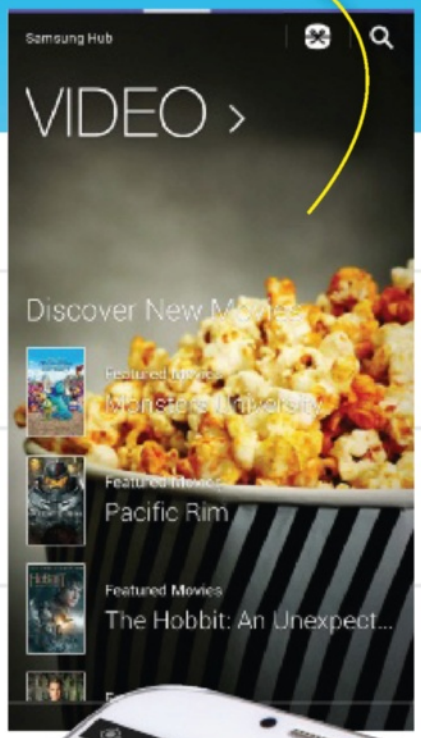
32 Attach photos to your emails

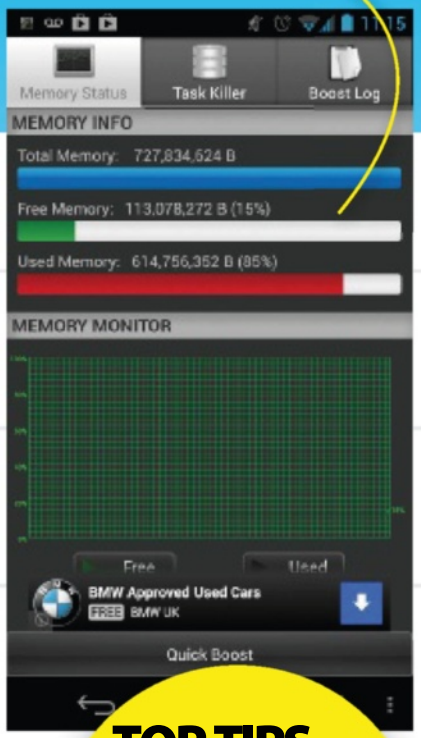
56 Photography masterclass

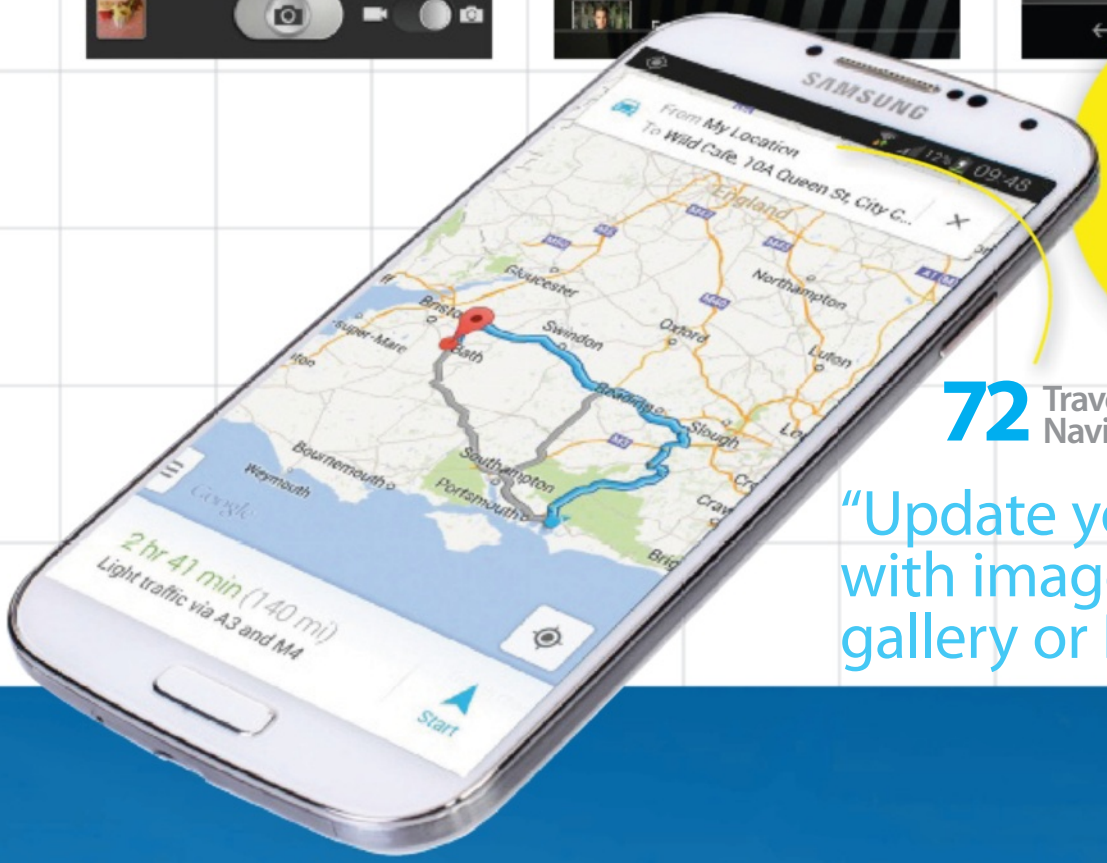
60 Explore S Hubs

76 Optimise performance









TOP TIPS

- ✔ Personalisation
- ✔ Google Play
- ✔ Social networks
- ✔ Photography
- ✔ Data & Security

72 Travel and Navigation

"Update your contacts with images from your gallery or Facebook"

Customisation

The apps and expertise you need to reinvent a device

Just because the user interface (UI) of your Samsung device looks and works a certain way the first time you pull it out of the box, that doesn't mean it has to stay like that for the rest of its life. There are lots of simple and effective ways to change the look and feel of your Samsung experience, and we're going to look at a few of them in detail now.

There's no rooting necessary here – all you'll have to do is download a few apps and set up a few preferences and you'll be taking control of your UI in no time.

In fact, there are plenty of ways you can customise your UI without having to download anything. Dive into the Settings menu of your phone or tablet and you'll find a wealth of things you can tweak and play around with.

If you want to change the font size of your interface head into the Accessibility menu. Here you can also turn on TalkBack, change the sound balance and modify a number of different settings that affect the way the phone works across a range of situations or environments.

Things as simple as altering the lock screen settings can change the way you use your device. You can add shortcuts to your lock screen to open up apps straight out of your pocket.

Some smartphones have motion control, reacting to being picked up and put down or flipped over in different ways. You can control this in the Motion section of the settings. You can also change what certain swipes and gestures do here.

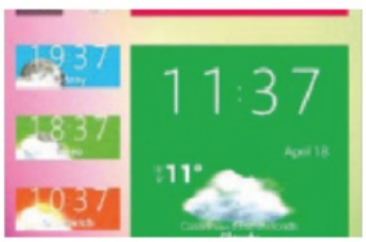
The Display menu offers even more customisation options. Here you can adjust what your notifications bar does, plus play around with various settings like the wallpaper, LED indicator and colour of the screen, to name just a few.

In these tutorials we're going to look at how you can get the most out of your notifications bar, an easy way to customise the LED light on your device, a clever launcher app that lets you use your phone one-handed, a new and incredibly useful download manager and a clever little beta app that means you can silence your phone in advance. We'll even throw in a couple of extra tips and hints to get you on your way. By the end of this masterclass, you may never look at your Samsung Galaxy device in the same way again.

Customise your UI | Three ways to change how you interact with your Samsung

Download a launcher

Downloading a different launcher app will change your home screens. Some will just add a few aesthetic tweaks, but others completely overhaul the way you activate apps or access your contacts.



Pick some widgets

Adding widgets to your home screen lets you customise its look and gives you quick access to apps and useful info. There are loads on the Google Play Store, and a lot of devices come with certain widgets pre-installed.

Find what works

Almost every aspect of your Android experience can be modified. If you don't like the apps you've currently got, then go and find new ones. Without a doubt, experimenting is the best way to get the UI you want.

Will rooting give me more options?

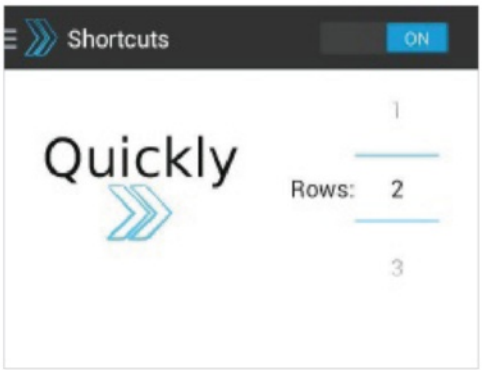
Absolutely. Installing a custom version of the Android OS gives you more freedom. But it's not a necessity; there are plenty of apps and widgets that can change the look and feel of your device.

Power up your notifications

We show you how to get more out of your notifications bar

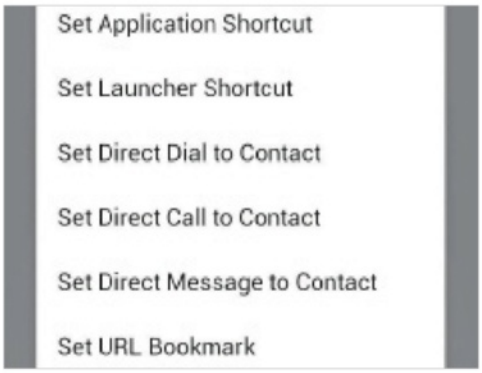
Your notifications bar is always available at the top of the screen, waiting for you to drag it down. Android 4.1 has added some interesting new features to the stock notifications bar, but the Quickly app takes things one step further, instantly granting access to a variety of content just by swiping down the tray. In this quick step-by-step we will show you how to get the app up and running and explain how you can tailor the various settings to suit your own personal needs and style.

Quickly | Enhance your phone's UI



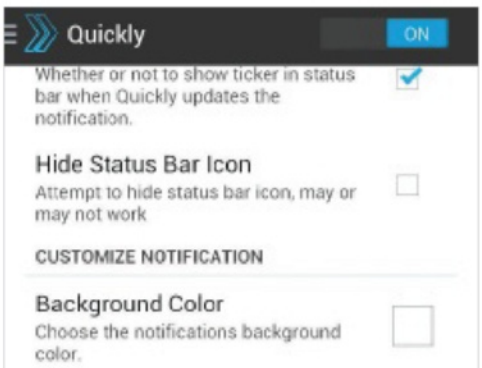
1: Choose your settings

This is the first screen you'll see after downloading the app from Google Play and installing it. Quickly lets you create bars of apps and actions in your notifications tray. Once you've selected how many you'll need it's time to start adding in the apps and assorted actions.


Set Application Shortcut
Set Launcher Shortcut
Set Direct Dial to Contact
Set Direct Call to Contact
Set Direct Message to Contact
Set URL Bookmark

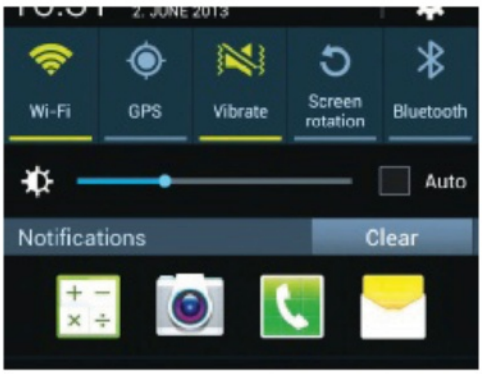
2: Set your actions

Tapping on a blank space in the bars brings up this options panel. You can then pick what goes in the space that you tapped on. Tapping on the different actions that appear expands the option, letting you refine your choice or select which contact you want to call.


Quickly
ON
Whether or not to show ticker in status bar when Quickly updates the notification.
Hide Status Bar Icon
Attempt to hide status bar icon, may or may not work
CUSTOMIZE NOTIFICATION
Background Color
Choose the notifications background color.

3: Customise the bars

When you're happy with your selections, you can customise them by tapping on the top-left of the screen to get to the options menu. Here you can modify the look of the bars by changing their colour, backgrounds and the way the app displays your choices.

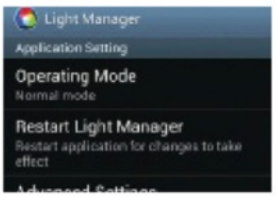


4: See what you've done

When you're ready, drag down from the top of the screen to access the notifications tray and you'll find a notification from Quickly waiting for you. Rather than tapping on it, pinch out to expand and you'll see your neatly ordered apps waiting to be accessed in an instant.

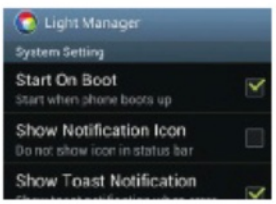
Tailor LEDs with Light Manager

An app that lets you set bespoke LED flashes



Once you have downloaded and installed the app you'll be taken to a screen listing the different notifications you can change the light for. Some are only available on rooted phones.

Choose the notification from the menu that you want to alter. You can turn off the LED light altogether, change the colour or flash rate and even set a custom colour to alert you.



The advanced settings menu lets you delve deeper, changing your notification settings for when you're asleep and playing with the brightness and speed of the flashes, for example.

Set up one-handed functionality

Splay Launcher is an innovative app that totally changes how you handle a phone

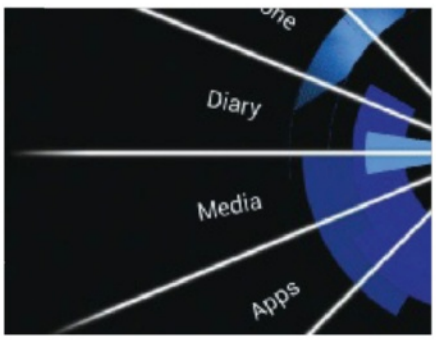
There are plenty of launcher apps out there that play around with the way your phone works, but few of them go as far as Splay. In fact this application almost entirely abandons the traditional smartphone layout in favour of a sci-fi-style wheel that lets you slide a thumb around to select the apps and actions you want to initiate.

Admittedly it takes a bit of getting used to, but once it clicks you'll find yourself able to swipe around with the same hand you're holding your phone with no problem. There are a few customisation options as well, so in this tutorial we'll walk you through how the app works and how you can set it up to maximise the ease of surfing through your Android phone with just one hand.

Once again this is an app that doesn't need root permissions, and because it's currently in beta it's free.

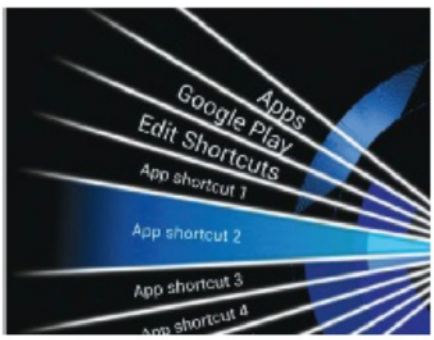
On the downside, that means not all the kinks have been ironed out yet, but nevertheless it's still a brilliant way of interacting with your smartphone.

Splay Launcher | Revolutionise your handset



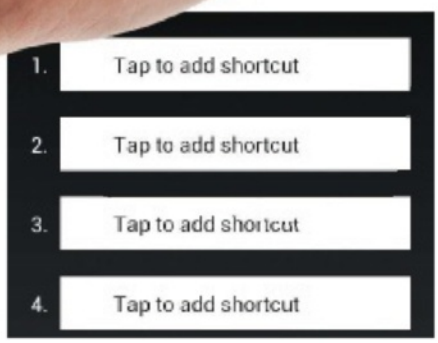
1: Watch the video

Head to the Google Play Store and grab Splay Launcher for free. Once it's installed it will run you through a brief video that shows you some of the features the launcher offers. Afterwards you'll be taken to the main screen of the app.



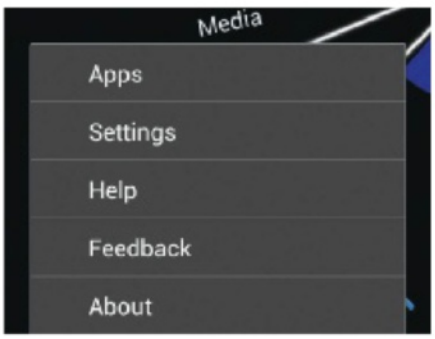
2: Have a thumb through

You control the launcher by sliding a thumb around the spokes. Slide one farther down a spoke to get more options. Once you're familiar with how things work, navigate to the Apps spoke; you'll see there are some empty slots here.



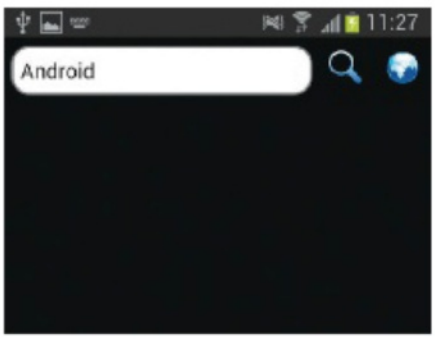
3: Set your apps

Use the Edit Shortcuts spoke to get to this screen and add seven of your most-used apps to the free spaces. Now you can get to them in a few simple swipes. You will find the rest of your applications in a standard layout via the Apps spoke.



4: On the menu

Your notifications bar is still accessible as usual by sliding it down from the top of the screen. If your device has one, the menu button offers up a few different options too. You can access your phone's settings and a list of your apps from here.



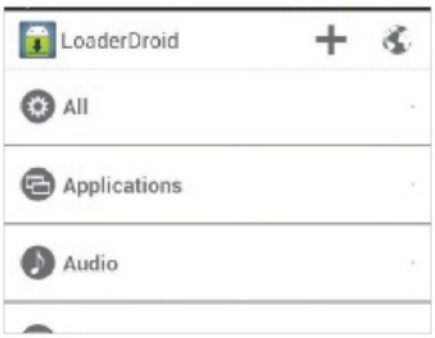
5: The search function

Tapping the magnifying glass in the bottom-right of the screen opens a search box. Here you can look for apps, contacts and media files on your phone, as well as quickly searching the internet using your own web browser.

Manage your downloads

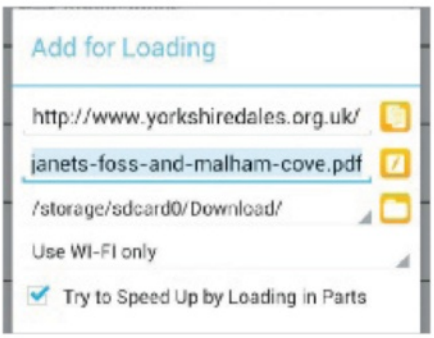
Get to grips with the files you're downloading from the web with a little help from Loader Droid

Loader Droid is a brilliant download manager app for anyone who downloads lots of things onto their Android smartphone or tablet. It boasts a great number of clever features that make downloading a doddle – including the ability to resume downloads and download scheduling – and most of them turn on as soon as you install the app. In this guide we will look at how you can make sure your downloads are as quick and as flexible as they possibly can be, and show you how to set up a special time slot when all of your downloads will be completed as well, using the advanced settings that Loader Droid has to offer. Grab it from the Google Play Store now – for free – and we can get started.



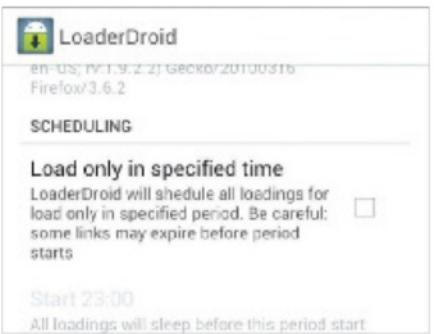
1: Let Loader take the load

Once the app is installed it'll already be poised to start grabbing your web downloads. It groups them into handy categories so navigating to them is straightforward. You can edit the sections too and change the category your downloads end up in.



2: Try a download

When you go to download something you'll see this box appear. Essentially it shows you the name of the file, its destination and the settings for the download. Tapping the orange boxes on the right lets you modify these settings and rename the file if you wish.


LoaderDroid
SCHEDULING
Load only in specified time
LoaderDroid will shedule all loadings for load only in specified period. Be careful: some links may expire before period starts

3: Set a schedule

If you've got something big to download, like a movie, you can schedule it for when you're asleep. Go to Settings, then the Advanced Preferences and scroll down to Scheduling. From there you can arrange a time to grab the file when you don't need the bandwidth.

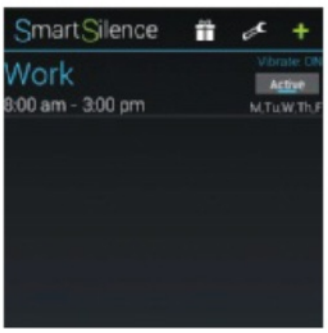
Silence your phone automatically

SmartSilence ensures your phone never goes off when it's not supposed to again

Once you've downloaded the app, you can start creating profiles. The first screen asks if you want to make a schedule of silence or a one-off event. Pick a schedule and you'll be taken to a screen that lays out your choices.

Here you can choose when your phone will activate Silent mode. Pick the day, followed by the time period, and give the profile a name so it's easy to find if you ever need to amend any details or remove it altogether.

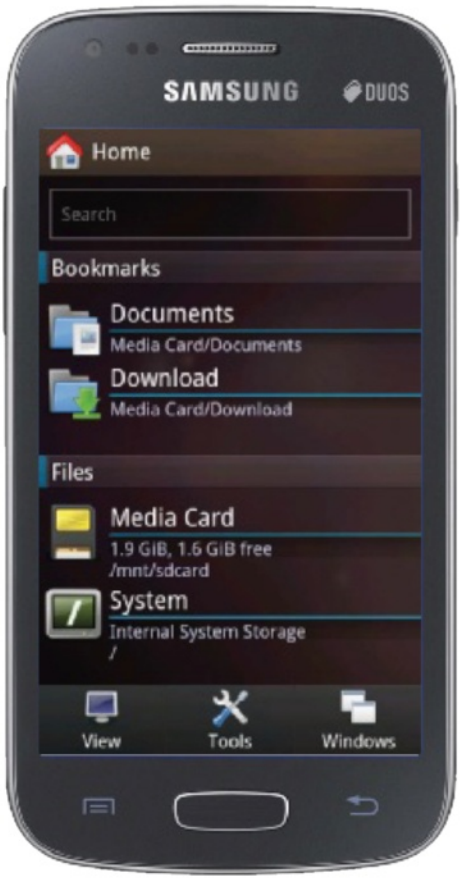
Finally you can set whether or not you want your phone to vibrate during the time period by ticking the checkbox at the bottom of the settings. When you're done, just tap the Save button to create and remember your profile.



When your profile is saved you'll be taken back to this screen where you can set new schedules or one-off events. It's not the most in-depth app, but it's ideal for making sure your phone never causes a disruption again.

Productivity

We look at how your device can offer a complete office suite



A Samsung device can be fun. You can make light work of tasks by ensuring you have the right applications installed and here we're looking at a range of techniques that will help to make life a lot easier.

For example, having your browser's bookmarks with you wherever you go is useful, letting you get to important or useful information fast without having to make a note. The free tool MyBookmarks lets you import Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari and Chrome bookmarks to your Android browser.

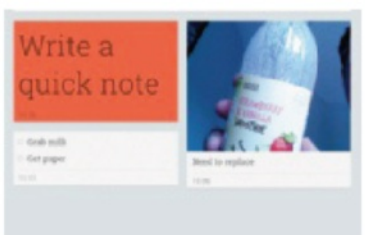
An Outlook calendar can be synced with Android via Google Calendar Sync. Head to **bit.ly/1an62MD** to see instructions for syncing with an Android device running 2.3+. Also, make sure you keep your device secure. After all, if you are using it for work then you may have information that you don't want others to see or get their hands on. So go to Location and Security in the Settings app and select Screen Unlock Pattern to enable extra protection.

You may also have to back up data. There is a great app called My Backup. It is free for 30 days but the Pro version is excellent and it lets you place files such as contacts safely in the cloud.

If your work requires image manipulation then it's hard to get better than Adobe Photoshop Express, which is a free app by one of the biggest experts in its field. Images can be cropped, rotated, adjusted and shared in this super-powerful editor.

But when you break down office life on a computer, you essentially get down to the need to write, produce a spreadsheet or presentation and make notes. So over these pages we are looking at the ability to use Microsoft Office on your Galaxy device, remotely access and control presentations that are running on Windows, Mac or Linux computers, and take notes that can go everywhere with you on Gmail. We will also be looking at how you can save files to the cloud and work on collaborative projects with colleagues, ensuring they have the right level of access. And we also delve into the realms of video conferences using Google's very own Hangouts tool that has features which go beyond social. By having this kind of power outside of the office, you can be flexible in your working life, and be able to work in and out of the office without having to lug around a large and expensive laptop with you.

More useful apps for work | Looking at ways to make light work of your load



Create to-do lists

Google Keep lets you jot down thoughts, take photos and dictate notes and have everything to hand on a neatly arranged main screen for speedy viewing. You can produce a list of checkboxes too.

Keep track of space

You often need to get at files fast – and ensure you don't run out of room. With the File Explorer app, you can search the files on your phone, view and edit files. Use it with Google Drive and Google Docs too.

Get a better keyboard

There are many good alternative keyboards. Swype enables you to type without lifting your finger and SwiftKey X has a good predictive engine to save time. It can even plug into your Twitter and Facebook.

Can Google read what I store in Google Drive?

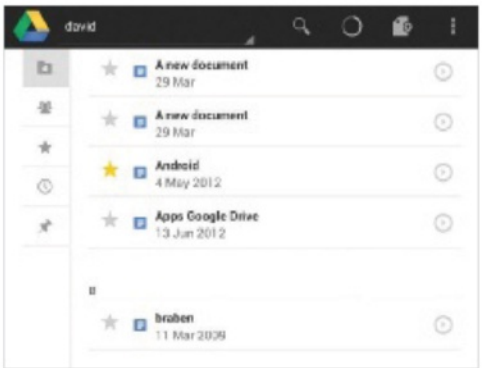
The terms of service state that anything you upload remains your IP but Google can scan your files and target adverts to you using the information that they contain.

Share files on Google Drive

Upload important work documents to the cloud

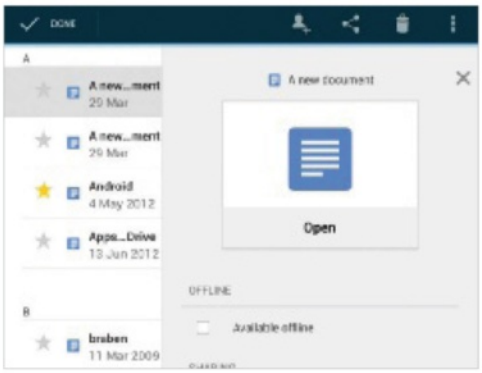
Google Drive lets you create and edit documents before saving them in the cloud. One cool feature of this is that files can be accessed by more than one person. So you may have a colleague who wants to see your report. With the sharing option in Google Drive, you can let them view it. Even better, you can also allow them to make amendments and work with you on the document. It allows for great collaboration – something you could not do without the power of cloud computing.

Google Drive | **Add a collaborator**



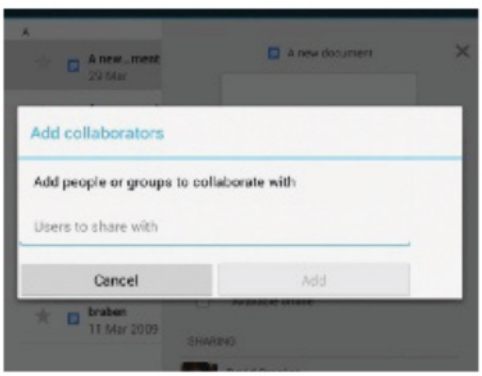
1: Open Google Drive

Go to the Google Drive app (you may download it for free from the Play Store) and you will instantly see a list of documents that you have saved or uploaded. Scroll through them until you find the one that you wish to share with others and then tap the arrow icon next to the file name.



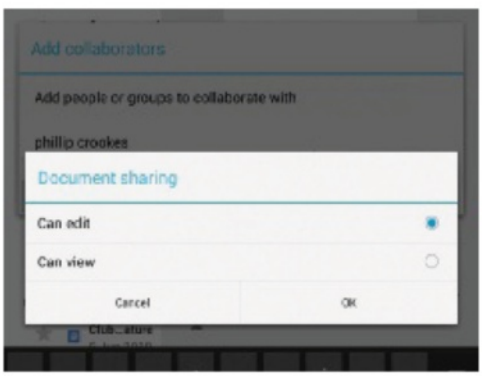
2: Offline reading

As well as being able to open the document that you have selected, you are also able to decide whether or not to have it readable offline. More crucially, you can Add a collaborator, effectively sharing the document. Tap this option to choose your collaborator.



3: Add a collaborator

A window will now appear. It will prompt you to add people or groups to collaborate with. When you type in this box, it will go through the contacts already on your device, but you can also add names that are not stored. Select Add when you have inputted a collaborator.



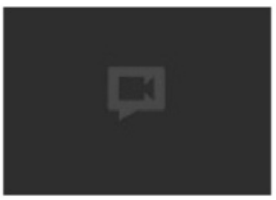
4: Edit or view?

The next step will allow you to decide whether or not the person you are sharing the document with can view and edit the document or simply view it without having the ability to make alterations. A notification will be sent to the collaborator in question.

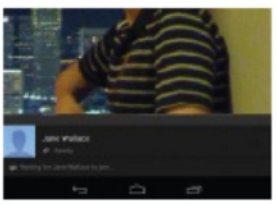
Group chat using Hangouts

Chat to as many as ten people at the same time

Find the Hangouts app in your collection (it should be pre-installed on your device). On some operating systems, you may have to find Hangouts from inside the Google+ app.



You can also tap in email addresses. When you are ready to converse, simply tap Start Hangout. The screen will go black and will notify the others that you want them.

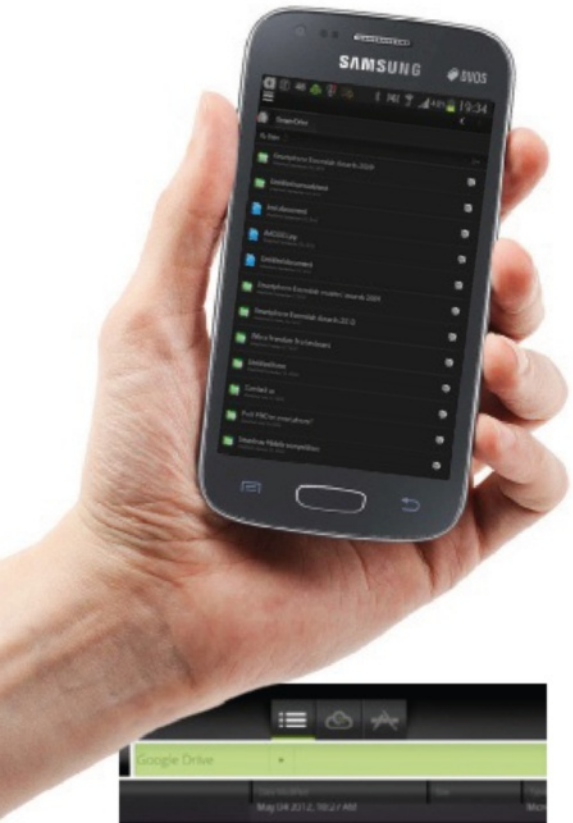


Your video image will now appear on the screen. When Hangouts makes contact with a friend or colleague they will appear too. You can use the red phone to end the chat.

Use full MS Office on your Android

Get the power of Microsoft Office on your device and link it to a cloud service

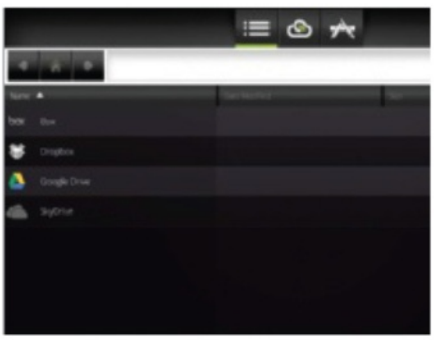
Although there are great word processors out there for Android, having the familiarity and flexibility of features of Microsoft Office is hard to beat for those who work with it on a daily basis on a desktop or laptop computer. CloudOn, an app which can be downloaded for free from Google Play, lets you access the power of Microsoft Office on your Android device. What it also does is enable you to save your files to the cloud using one of four existing services: Dropbox, Google Drive, SkyDrive and Box. You are also able to pull documents from any of these services and edit them on your device before making notes and saving them back. The app also lets you open up other file types as well, including images and PDFs using the built-in File Viewer and Adobe Reader. CloudOn doesn't only cater for word processed documents. It also lets you use Excel and PowerPoint to create, review and edit spreadsheets and presentations. There are facilities for renaming files and sharing them as links or attachments via email.



CloudOn | View and edit Office files

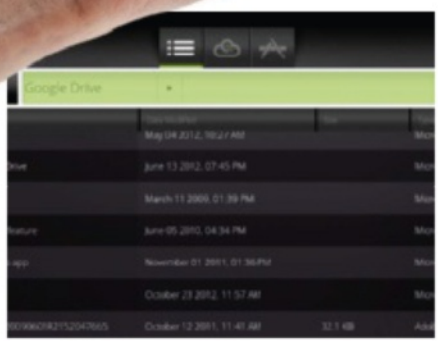
1: Sign up to CloudOn

After downloading it from the Play Store, when you open CloudOn, it will ask you to sign in or create an account. We're assuming you don't have an account so tap the latter and then select a storage account from either SkyDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox or Box.



2: Seeing your files

With access to one or more of your cloud services, you can begin to view files. Other storage options can be accessed by tapping and signing in. Tap the storage account where the document you want to access is located. We're using Google Drive.



3: Choose a document

A list of the documents in your chosen storage account is listed. By the side of each, you will see the file type, for example Microsoft Word or Adobe Reader. Tap on the file that you want to access and it will be opened.

4: Get editing

Now you will see a familiar word processing layout. Across a bar at the top of the screen there is a series of menus. Tap one of these and icons appear underneath offering various functions such as bold, italics or pie charts and so on.

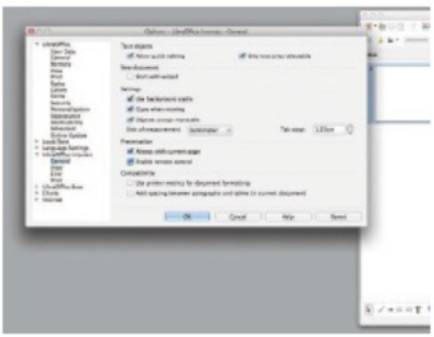
5: Using the keyboard

When you tap anywhere within the text, the keyboard will appear and you can make amendments that will then be saved to your cloud storage facility. You can add a note about your amendment and editing times are also shown.

Control slideshows

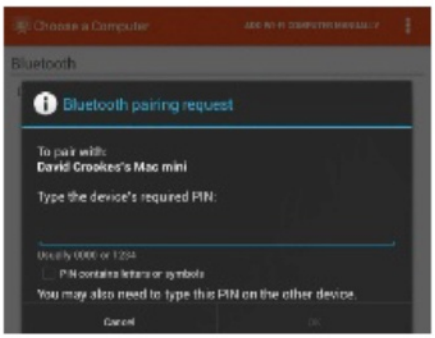
Use LibreOffice Impress Remote to deliver more effective presentations at work

LibreOffice has gone from strength-to-strength and not only is its desktop offering more powerful than ever, it also enables you to use a Galaxy to remote control presentations running on a computer. To do this, both need to be connected via Bluetooth. Once this is done, whatever presentation you load on the computer can be controlled using your device. All you need to do is use the volume control. Volume up advances one slide and volume down goes back if you need to. As well as enable this functionality with the slides, you can access speaker notes, which is handy as you talk through your presentation, ensuring a slicker delivery. Here we look at how to get connected and display the slides.



1: LibreOffice on the computer

On your Android, ensure Bluetooth is switched on. Now go to your computer and ensure it's switched on too. Open LibreOffice's presentation tool on your computer and go to Tools>Options>LibreOffice Impress>General. Enable remote control.


Bluetooth
Bluetooth pairing request
To pair with:
David Crookes's Mac mini
Type the device's required PIN:
You may also need to type this PIN on the other device.

2: Impress on Android

Ensure Bluetooth is enabled on Android (go to the Settings app). Now download and open the LibreOffice Impress Remote app on your Android device. When launched, it will search for computers in your vicinity. Tap your computer and follow the pairing request.

3: Connecting the two

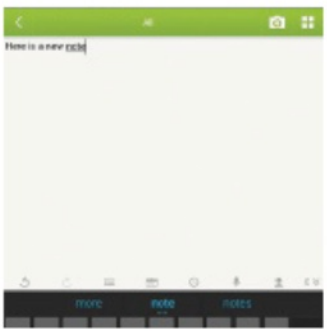
Android will connect to the computer. Once it has, the screen will show a single button, saying Start Presentation. When you tap that, whatever presentation you have on LibreOffice on your computer can be remotely controlled using your Android.

Sync notes and Gmail with GNotes

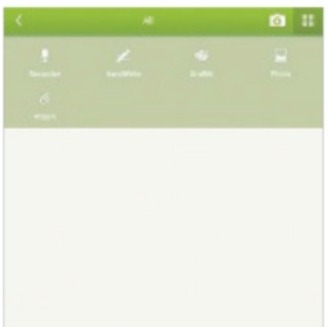
Write notes then save them to your Gmail account

Download the GNotes app from Google Play (it's free) and open it. You are able to start writing notes straight away but we can't keep the notes in the cloud so we will sign up to our Gmail account first. Tap Setup to start.

Having selected the Email option, we have two choices. By selecting XOAuth, we can allow the app access to our Gmail. Tap Grant and enter your details. Other accounts can be added via the Email/Password tab.



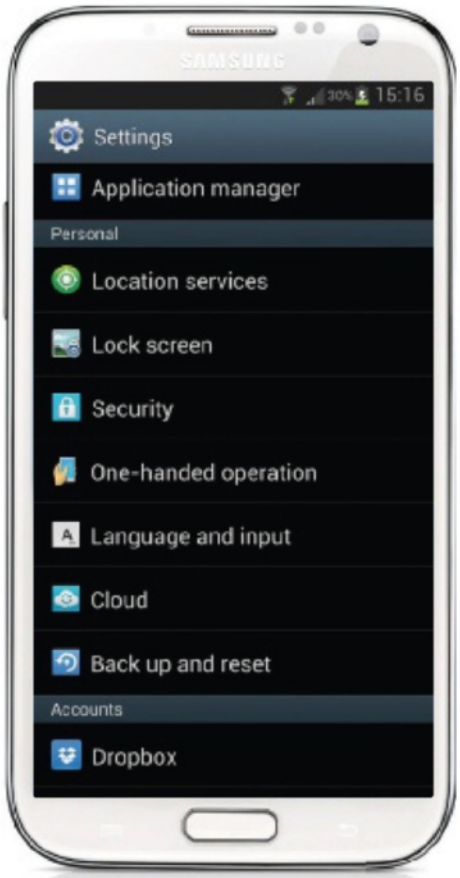
At this point, any notes you go on to make will be synced to your Gmail account under the label Notes. The app will show you where this is with an explanatory screen. You can now write a note. Tap '+' in the right-hand corner.



By tapping the four boxes in the top-right of a note, you can access many options including the ability to record or handwrite a note. Files can be attached and you can also include a photo. The Camera option lets you take a photo.

Security

Transform your Galaxy device into a digital fortress



There's never been a more poignant time to secure your digital gizmos. As your Galaxy smartphone or tablet becomes less of a helpful gadget and more of an extension of your right arm, you may often find that you begin to rely more and more on these marvellous little devices to remember everything about you.

Your personal details, contacts, emails, messages, social-networking logins and even sensitive bank account information are all likely to be tapped in and entrusted to your device, making it essential that all of this info is safeguarded. Whether you're protecting your data, warding against thieves or just a private person who prefers to keep their personal life away from prying eyes, being able to secure your device is an essential part of digital life.

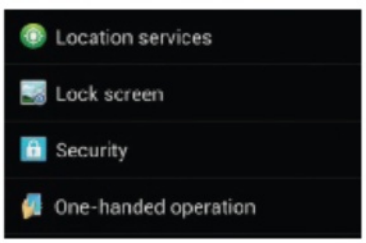
Luckily, help is at hand as the Android developers also appreciate just how important security is. As you explore the inner workings of your tablet or smartphone, you're guaranteed to find hundreds of super-helpful features to lock, stop, protect and repel nosey sneaks. There's a superb way to keep your digital stuff safe for every user, meaning that if your device should fall into the wrong hands, intruders will stay none the wiser.

Here we'll cover just a few really simple yet super-effective security tips that you can use to lock down your device. Simple things such as setting a password can be the ideal starting point for protecting yourself, and then you can really explore to see just what you can achieve to keep everything as safe as houses.

Read on to discover how to browse the web in private using the clever Incognito mode in Google Chrome. We will also guide you through the process of encrypting your device which scrambles all your data so only you can unlock it using a password.

We will also show you how to make the most of amazing third-party security apps available to download from the Play Store, such as Lookout, an app that keeps your device safe from external threats and protects your private information. You can also use these pages to learn how to keep your data safe and sound, and should you experience the mad panic that comes with losing your device you can figure out how to breathe that sigh of relief and locate your gizmo using Android Device Manager.

Use a password | Keep it all safe, lock-and-key style



Set it up

To begin setting a password on your device, head to the Settings app on your device, which looks like a small cog. Tap this, then scroll down and tap on Lock screen, under the Personal header. Now hit Screen lock.

Type it in

Here you'll see a whole host of options for locking your device. Tap the Password option and then enter a password on the next screen. Hit Continue, enter your password once more to confirm and tap OK.

You're protected!

To unlock your device's home screen you will now be prompted to enter your password. If you want to remove it, simply go via Settings>Screen lock, enter your password and simply tap the option to change it.

What's the best kind of password?

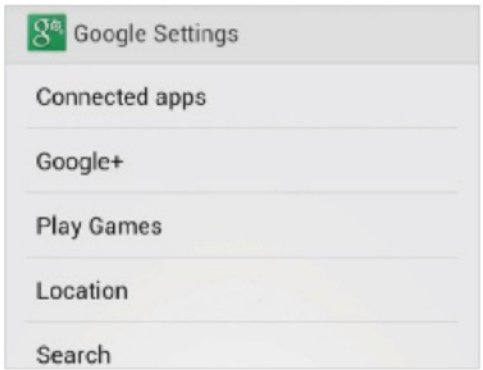
For maximum security be sure to use a combination of lower-case letters, upper-case letters and numbers in your password, and don't use anything too obvious such as your name or simply '123456'.

Find your phone

An amazing way to keep tabs on your smartphone

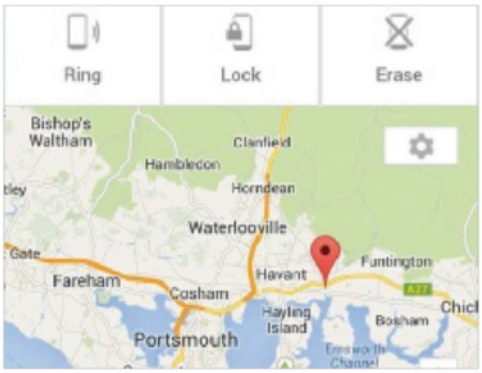
We've all been there. That cold sweat that sets in after you've checked your pockets, your bag, the car and down the back of the sofa and you still haven't found your beloved smartphone. However, savvy Android users need fret no longer, as Android Device Manager is here to reunite you with your walkabout gadgetry. If your device is associated with your Google account, you can use the service to find the approximate location of your device, reset the password or even perform a complete factory reset. Best of all, it's a complete doddle to set up.

Android Device Manager | Locate a lost device



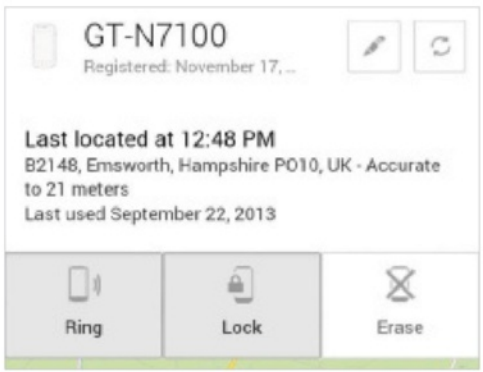
1: Turn it on

Find the Google Settings app on your smartphone (a green box with a G and some cogs in it) then hit the Android Device Manager option. Check both tick boxes then on your computer navigate to **www.android.com/devicemanager** and sign into your Google account.



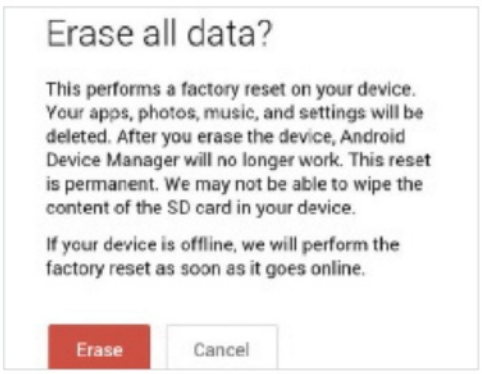
2: Get online

Tap Accept if it asks you to allow location data. Providing your device is on and within the range of mobile data or Wi-fi, you'll then see the location of your device on Google Maps plus other useful info such as an approximate address and last-location date and time.



3: Ring or lock

You now have a few options. You can use the button on the left to ring your phone at full volume for five minutes, a really handy feature if you're near it but can't see it! You can also use the middle button to remotely lock your phone with a new password.

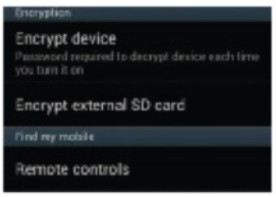

Erase all data?
This performs a factory reset on your device. Your apps, photos, music, and settings will be deleted. After you erase the device, Android Device Manager will no longer work. This reset is permanent. We may not be able to wipe the content of the SD card in your device.
If your device is offline, we will perform the factory reset as soon as it goes online.
Erase
Cancel

4: Remote factory reset

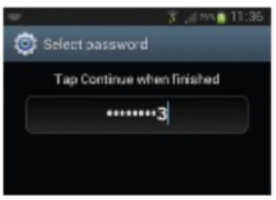
The Erase button will perform a remote factory reset on your device. All of your apps, photos, music and settings will be deleted. It's irreversible, but if your phone has been lost or stolen and you have no hope of recovering it, this is a useful means of protecting your personal details.

Encrypt for extra security

Use this feature to boost your device's defences



Before you encrypt your device, be certain that you want to do it. The only way to remove an encryption is to restart the phone from the factory settings, which will erase your personal files.



To begin encryption, set a password of at least six characters. Then head to Settings and tap Security>Encrypt Device. Make sure your battery is full and the device is plugged in.

Encrypt device
You can encrypt accounts, settings, downloaded applications and their data, media, and other files. Once you encrypt your device, a password will be required to decrypt it each time you power it on
Encryption takes an hour or more. Start

When you're ready, tap Encrypt Device. The encryption may take an hour or more and your device will continually restart. Once it's done, you'll be prompted to enter your password.

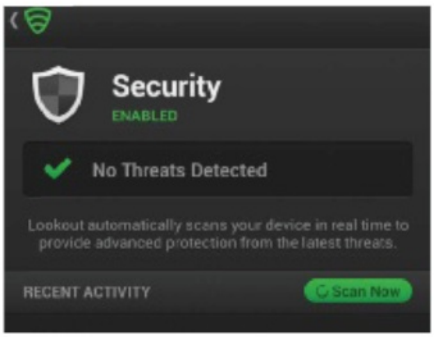
Keep your device free of viruses

Install and use Lookout, the mother of all Samsung Galaxy security apps

If you're after an app that takes care of all your smartphone security worries, look no further than Lookout. Smartphones and tablets have evolved into such powerful devices that they now require protection from threats such as viruses, malware and spyware. This is especially true seeing as we pour our whole lives into the little gadgets, feeding our personal information into them without really knowing that it's safe.

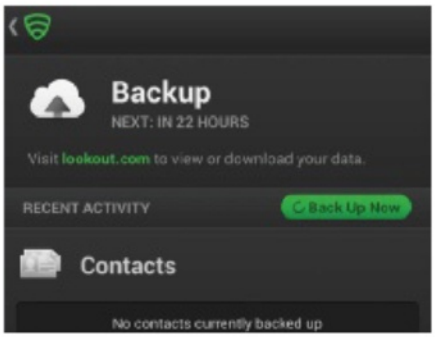
Lookout works to protect your device and ward off any viruses by scanning your emails, attachments and downloads and by blocking any dodgy web pages. It also takes care of your personal details by keeping tabs on every app that has access to your personal information. But that's not all. If you opt for the Premium edition (costing around £19/$30 per year) Lookout can also help you locate your device if you lose it, and can also call it, lock it, reset it and wipe it. There's even a feature that snaps a photo of the person trying to gain access to your phone and emails it to you, so you can catch the culprit.

Using Lookout | Download, install and get protected


Security
ENABLED
No Threats Detected
Lookout automatically scans your device in real time to provide advanced protection from the latest threats.
RECENT ACTIVITY
Scan Now

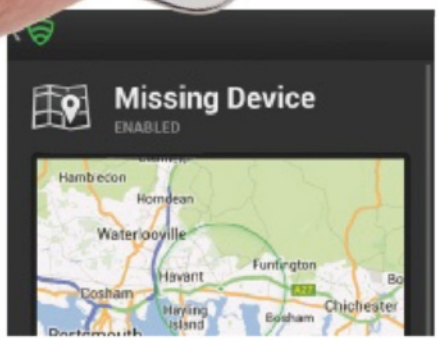
1: Your security hub

At the top of the Lookout home screen you can scroll through updates of what the app has been doing in the background. Tap the Security option on the home screen to scan your apps, check there's nothing malicious and view the results of previous scans.



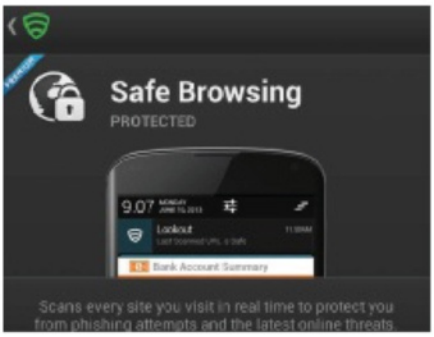
2: Backup your essentials

Lookout's Backup facility will perform scheduled backups of your contacts and save them to **Lookout.com**, but hit the Back Up Now button to perform a backup right away. You can also back up all your photos and call history by tapping on the Enable buttons.



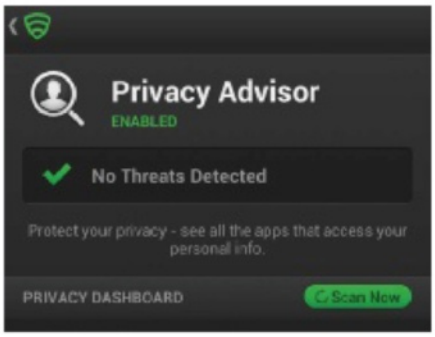
3: Find missing devices

This option shows you the location of your device, which is also accessible by logging on to **Lookout.com** from a computer. There are other helpful features, such as Scream, which sounds a loud alarm and Lock Cam to catch the culprit trying to access your phone.


Safe Browsing
PROTECTED
Scans every site you visit in real time to protect you from phishing attempts and the latest online threats.

4: Safe internet browsing

The Safe Browsing feature scans all the websites you access to protect you from online threats. You can see a summary of sites browsed and deemed safe, but you'll also notice it in your browser, occasionally popping up to inform you of danger.



5: Using Privacy Advisor

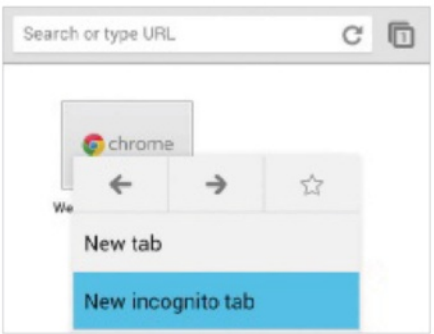
Tap on Scan Now and Lookout sifts through all of the apps on your device then lets you know which ones use your personal details, location, messages, contacts or accounts. It's a great way to make an informed decision about which apps you use for what purpose.

Incognito web browsing

Make use of Chrome's Incognito mode for maximum browsing privacy

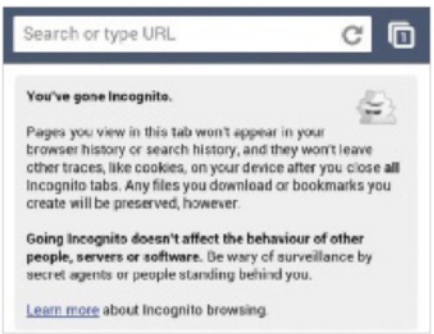
When you surf the web on your device using an internet browser, it'll remember certain things such as cookies and website history. If you prefer to keep your web searches and your browsing history to yourself and don't want any of this information to be remembered on your Android device, then Google Chrome's Incognito mode is the perfect solution.

Browsing the web in this mode will ensure that none of your search or website history will be kept. Any files that you have downloaded while in Incognito mode will not appear in your download history (but will still be saved on your device) and cookies from the session will be deleted as soon as you close the browser or exit Incognito mode.



1: Open up Chrome

On your home screen locate and tap the Chrome browser app. As the browser loads you'll see the Chrome homepage that lists your most-visited pages and recently closed tabs. Tap the Options menu, then choose New incognito tab from the list.


Search or type URL
You've gone Incognito.
Pages you view in this tab won't appear in your browser history or search history, and they won't leave other traces, like cookies, on your device after you close all Incognito tabs. Any files you download or bookmarks you create will be preserved, however.
Going Incognito doesn't affect the behaviour of other people, servers or software. Be wary of surveillance by secret agents or people standing behind you.
Learn more about Incognito browsing.

2: Browse in private

As your new Incognito tab loads you'll notice right away that the frame of the browser is a different colour. This is handy, as Chrome lets you run many tabs at once. You can have Incognito tabs running alongside regular tabs and easily tell which one is which.

3: Cover all tracks

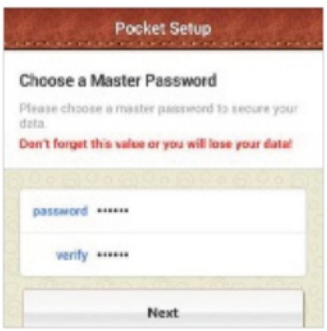
Browse the web in your Incognito tab as you would normally. Once done, exit Incognito mode by tapping the Tabs button in the top-right, next to the search bar. Then simply select the Incognito tab you want to exit and hit the 'x' in the top corner to close.

Keep sensitive data safe

Use the Pocket app to organise and protect your details

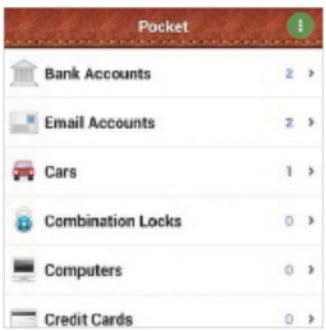
1: Download the app

It's super handy to keep all your details on your smartphone or tablet, and Pocket is the go-to app for this. Head to the Google Play store, type Pocket into the search then Install and Open.


Pocket Setup
Choose a Master Password
Please choose a master password to secure your data.
Don't forget this value or you will lose your data!
password
verify
Next

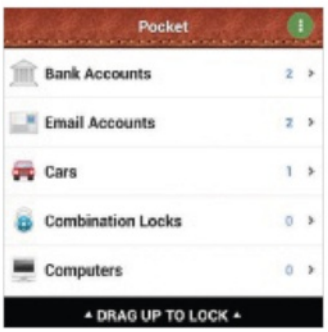
2: Set Master Password

Hit Create New Pocket and enter a Master Password that will safeguard all your info – you'll need to enter this every time you open the app. Then hit Next for options to Sync to Dropbox.



3: Add your info

You'll be taken to Pocket's main screen that features loads of pre-made folders for storing data, from bank accounts to passports. If you can't see the folder you want, tap Add Group to make a new one.



4: Drag to lock

To add info, tap the folder, Add Entry and fill in the fields. Once done, it's important to lock Pocket behind you – do this by tapping and dragging the lock bar upwards from the bottom.

Emails

Desktop-class email is within reach when you are mobile.

Email is still a force in the world of mobile communications in spite of the growth of instant messaging and networks that can keep you in touch with people throughout the day. For work and many other tasks, email is still ideal and the only drawback to using it on a mobile device is the sometimes slower data entry and smaller screens on phones.

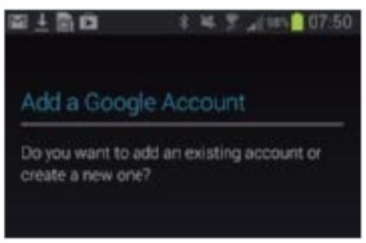
The advantages, however, outweigh the downsides easily because you can receive your emails no matter where you are and the simple alerts will ensure that you never miss something important. Multiple email accounts are easily accessible and can be merged into one unified inbox, your most important contacts can be given priority on your device so that they become your main focus and you can also send much more than simple text with a variety of media attachment options open to you to share with anyone instantly. Setting up your own personalised signatures, the ability to send to a group of people, control who can view your recipient list, and even creating labels to ensure that all of your emails are kept organised complete the Galaxy email setup and it really is very impressive.

Whatever you do on your Galaxy will be mirrored in your email accounts and thus on your desktop computer and any other device you use for handling emails, and your Samsung Galaxy device could easily become your default tool for emailing every single day.

We will show you how to set up your accounts and also how to manage them in the most efficient way possible, with an emphasis on helping you to make the most of the features on offer. Email may not be the reason you bought your smartphone, but if you communicate often it could become one of the most used features over time and with Google being the master of online mass email, the compatibility with Android is very strong indeed. The way the email software works in conjunction with much of the rest of the system is seamless and virtually everything you need will be there for you the moment you turn the device on. Third party apps can help, but there really is little need to use them thanks to the powerful setup that is included in Galaxy devices by default.

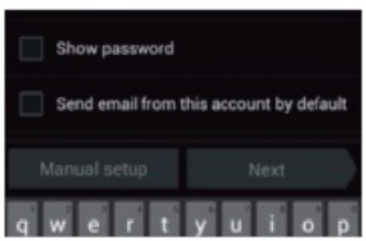
Let's start understanding the power of Android email.

Use multiple email accounts | Bring all of your email accounts together



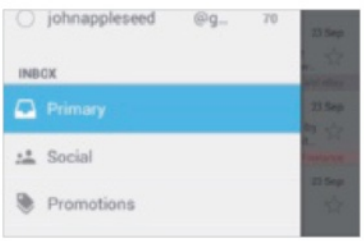
Multiple Gmail accounts

In the Gmail app, tap the menu key and choose Settings. At the top right-hand corner you will see Add Account. Tap this and follow the instructions to add a Gmail inbox. Repeat for each of your accounts.



Other email accounts

For non-Gmail accounts, go to Settings>Accounts and then tap 'Add Account'. Choose 'Email' from the next list and then enter the required details. You may need server information and other details to set it up.



Bring them together

You will now be able to use each account in the same app and jump between them with a single tap. This keeps them together, but still separated enough to aid organisation and avoid any confusion.

What app can I use to clean up my email interface?

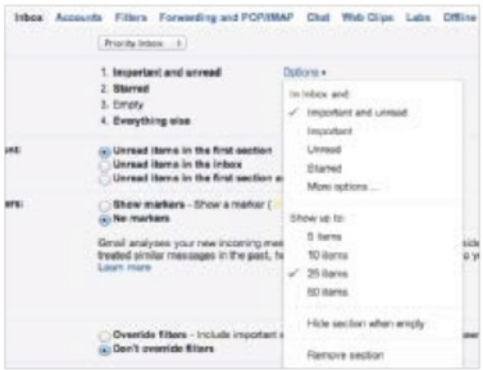
If you feel that the Gmail and Email app interfaces that come with your Android device are too cluttered, take a look at the very simple K-9 Mail in Google Play.

Use priority inbox

Add messages to priority inbox to keep important emails together

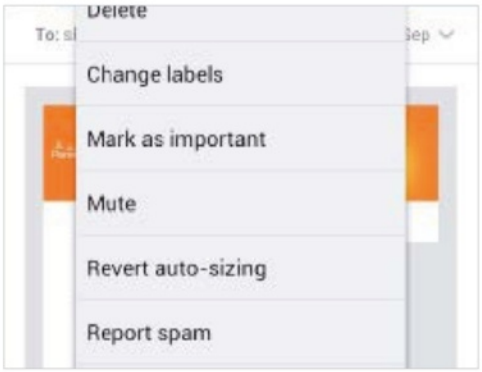
The priority inbox feature is designed to read your mind, yes really, because the software can analyse your email usage and decide which emails are important enough to notify you about. It will attempt to work out only the emails you need notifications for and thus leave you free to focus on other things. There will, however, be occasions when you want to add a new type of email to your priority inbox because nothing works perfectly, and this is simple to do.

Set your priorities | Focus on your important communications first



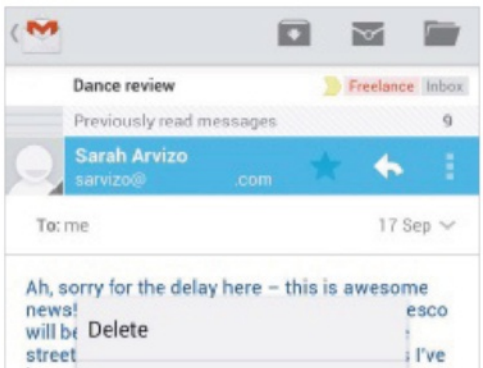
1: Set it up

Go to Gmail on your desktop PC, click the gear icon and then select Settings. Select the Inbox tab at the top and then click the Inbox type box. Choose 'Priority Inbox' and double-check the options below. When you are happy with the settings, click 'Save Changes'.



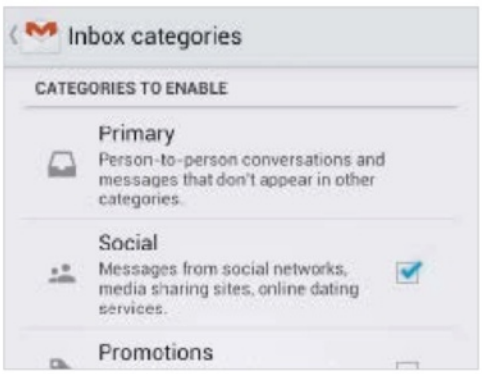
2: Add important emails

Emails can be considered priorities for many different reasons, but if you see one that you believe should be a priority simply tap the menu key when viewing it and tap 'Mark as important'. This should ensure that similar messages are considered priorities in the future.



3: Remove importance

You can use the same method to stop certain types of email being marked as priorities by hitting the menu key and then selecting 'Mark as not important'. Be careful when doing this because there could be many different factors that define the email as important in the first place.

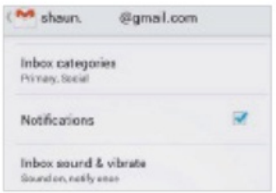

Inbox categories
CATEGORIES TO ENABLE
Primary
Person-to-person conversations and messages that don't appear in other categories.
Social
Messages from social networks, media sharing sites, online dating services.
Promotions

4: Other priorities

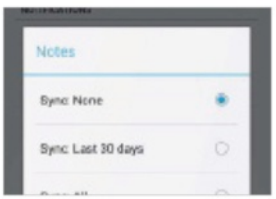
If you go to settings in Gmail and then tap on your email address, you can also manage other types of priorities such as promotions, social and updates. These may not all be important to you, but they do give you the opportunity to organise your inbox much more effectively.

Manage your email labels

Organise your inbox with labels



In Gmail, press the menu key and then select your email account. Tap 'Manage Labels' to be presented with a list of your currently active labels. If they have colour codes, these will be shown next to each label.



You can now select any label and tap the top option to sync emails held within it to your Android device. You can also set up notifications for that specific label once you have enabled syncing.

If you want to take your label management to a new level, the best method is to log in on a desktop PC, choose Settings and then Labels. Here you can edit and create new labels with ease.

Add images from the Gallery

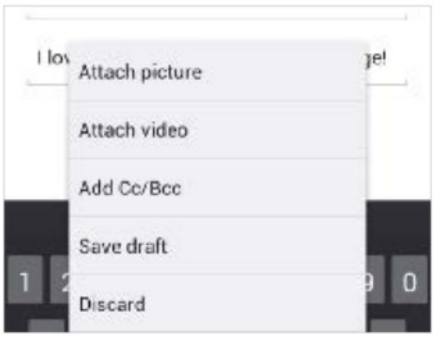
Share your photos with anyone in seconds

Emails are about much more than text because you have the opportunity to share media with anyone you like in an instant. This is something you may be used to doing on a desktop, but the good news is that all of the same facilities are available on a Galaxy device thanks to the close ties that are built in to the system which work with almost any app you have installed. The Gallery app is the default solution for presenting images on a Samsung device and with this comes a close relationship to email which can be used to attach any image from the gallery and to then send it. This method can be used for other types of file as well using different apps, but for this particular tutorial we will concentrate on images. When you select and attach an image to an email you will have no opportunity to tweak it so make sure any editing is done before you attach it. You can then ensure that you are sending the right photo and one that is as impressive as it can be. So let's gets started with using images and email when mobile.

Attach any image | Send any image from any email account

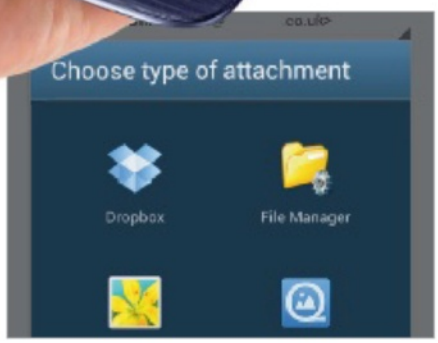
1: A new email

Tap the '+' icon at the top to start creating a new email. Enter the recipient's email address, add a title and the text you want to include. If you can, try to add some context which describes more about the image you are going to attach to the email.



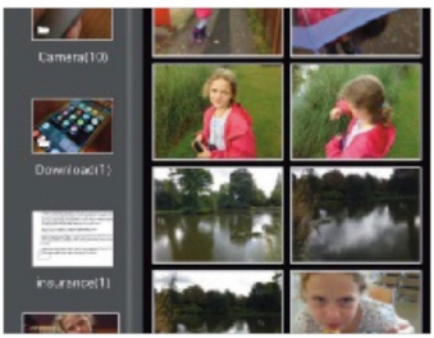
2: Use the menu

Tap the menu key and a list of options will appear. Here you can add images, videos and change many other parts of the email you are dealing with. In this case you will want to select Attach picture at the top to continue with the process.



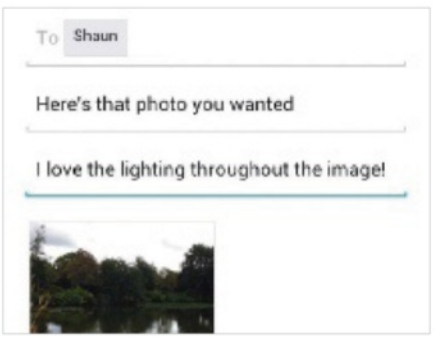
3: Many choices

You will now be given a choice of which app you want to use to take an image from. This will usually be a short list, but if you have a lot of third party apps installed on your device, the selection could be quite large. 'Choose Gallery' to proceed.



4: Find the image

Navigate through the folders that show up and find the image you want to attach. If you have a lot of images loaded onto your device this can take time, but the thumbnails are large enough to recognise. Tap an image and you will be taken back to the email.



5: Time to send

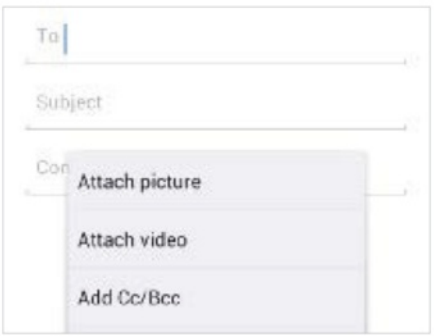
The image will now be shown in the email body with the name and the size noted. You can tap the 'x' to remove it from the email or tap the send icon to send the email with the image included. The process is very quick and highly effective.

Copies of emails

Copy people into your emails and hide the process from the main recipient

There will be times when you want to send an email to a group of people, but still not a main recipient. You can use the copy feature to show others the email you have sent in real time and also blind copy to hide the fact that you are showing other people from the main recipient. It might sound complex, but you will know which one to use when the situation occurs.

We will demonstrate how you can bring up the required options when you need them which means that they are not taking up valuable screen space during normal use. You may reach the point where you rarely send an email to just one person thanks to the usefulness and efficiency of this feature. Now let's explore this feature in more detail.

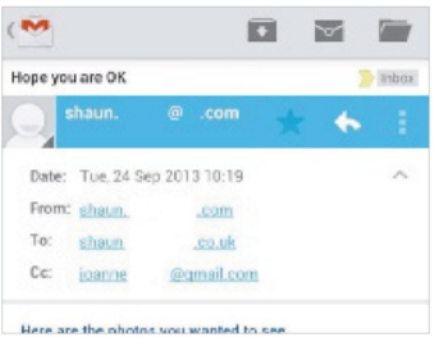


1: Add the fields

When you are creating an email, tap the menu key and choose the 'Add Cc/Bcc' option. This will add two new fields to your email which take up quite a lot of the screen. This is why they are normally hidden as they take up valuable space.

2: Add some recipients

You can now input the email addresses you want to use. As you start to type them, you should be given automatic options if they are stored in your contacts. Once completed you can hit the send button to deliver the email to everyone in an instant.



3: The received email

When the email is received, the recipient will be able to view the people copied into the message, but not those who have been blind copied. You can send separate emails for complete privacy, but this is a more efficient way to manage everything at once.

Set up a signature

Identify yourself automatically in every email

1: Use the settings

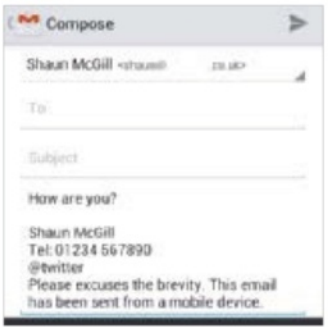
In the Gmail app, tap the menu key and then choose Settings. Tap your email address and select the Signature box half way down the screen. A small text field will appear ready for your input.

2: Add your signature

Type in your name and any other contact details such as telephone number and even a social network ID. Tap return to enter a new line in your signature and to make it look more organised.

3: Auto sign-off

The signature will now be automatically added to any new email you create and displayed on the screen so you can see how it will look. Once it is set up, you can use it forever more.



4: Be polite

If you struggle to type quickly on your Galaxy device, it could be a good idea to add a note in your signature explaining why the email is shorter than the ones you normally send.

Browsing

Surf the internet with ease on your smartphone or tablet

The Android operating system is designed to be as open as possible and with this comes a mobile browsing experience that is as flexible and complete as you could hope for. Historically, mobile web browsers have been limited, and even with modern smartphones people have struggled to adjust to the capabilities of modern-day browsing on Android. This is partly because of a lack of awareness and also because the stock browsers that come with many devices lack all of the features we are going to teach you how to use.

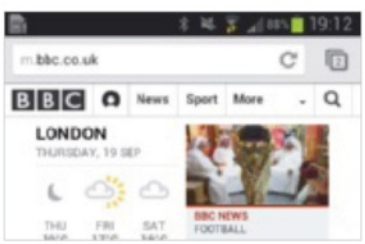
We have reached the stage with Android browsing that you can in theory do almost everything you can on a desktop and thus greatly increase the versatility your device offers. You can view many pages at the same time and keep them open at specific points, you can download various file types and as much media as your device can hold, and you can also fill in web forms without actually having to fill them in. No matter what your needs there are many alternative browsers available for you to try for free and bookmarking all of your favourites can literally be done in under a second for each page. In real-time you can share your open tabs using a Google account and all of this is just the tip of the ever more flexible Android browsing iceberg.

Once you start using these advanced features you will be able to explore more options and push your device as hard as you can in a variety of different ways. The trick, however, is to find a set of solutions that work perfectly for you and to try to stick with them – it is easy to keep experimenting, but this rarely saves you any time. Remember that Android is only limited by your imagination and that the internet is a crucial part of any modern mobile device.

Without the internet a smartphone or tablet is not even 10 per cent as useful so you may as well take full advantage of what is available to you. It's time to start understand just how powerful your internet-connected mobile device can be.

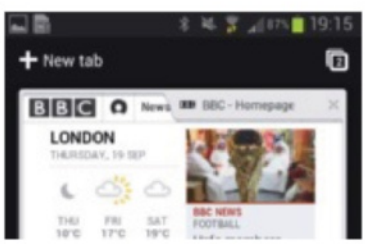
> "Without the internet a smartphone or tablet is not even ten per cent as useful"

Surf the internet with tabs | Use tabs to speed up your browsing



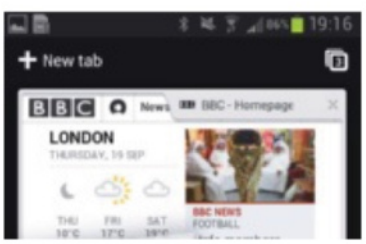
Use the icon

When viewing a web page in the Chrome browser you will see a small icon in the top right-hand corner. This is the key to using tabs when browsing on a Samsung device. Tap it to proceed to step 2.



The second tab

Tap the option at the top '+ New tab' and then enter a web address or start a search as normal. When you tap the top-right icon again each of the open tabs will be displayed in a column for easy navigation.



Delete a tab

You can jump between pages by tapping any in the column and you can remove a tab by simply tapping, holding and then sliding it off the screen to the left. The remaining tabs will take its place.

Is my Android web browsing secure?

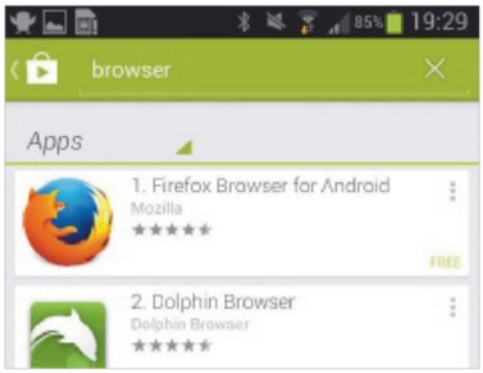
Browsing the web on Android is as secure as doing the same on a desktop. Indeed, many of the most popular web browsers are available from the exact same developers.

Choose your browser

Make the internet personal to your needs

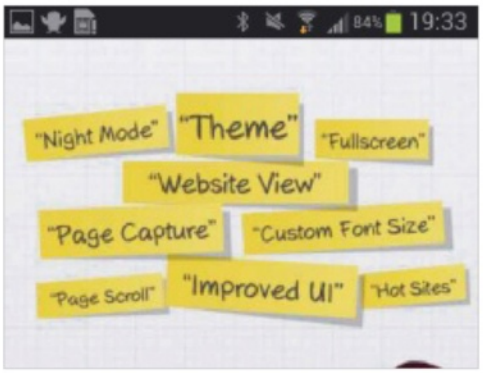
A quick search for the word 'browser' in Google Play will bring back a set of results that is hard to comprehend at first. Many Samsung Galaxy devices come pre-installed with more than one browser, but you have the opportunity to experiment until you find a browser that fits the way you want to surf perfectly. You can then set it as your default choice when opening links in emails and elsewhere, and effectively replace the ones that came with your device.

Your perfect browser | Choose a browser and make it the default



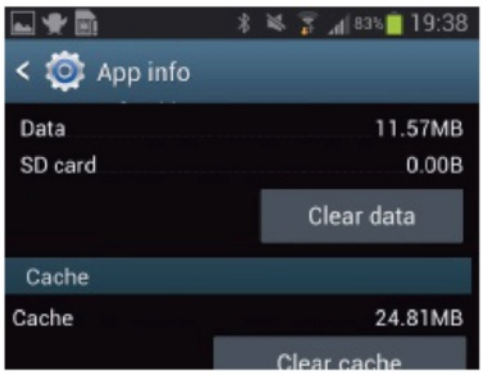
1: Find a browser

Open the Google Play store on your device and search for 'browser' to see what is available to you. Take some time to read the descriptions and see which ones feel like they will suit your needs. Tap Install and wait for the process to complete. You can then open the app.



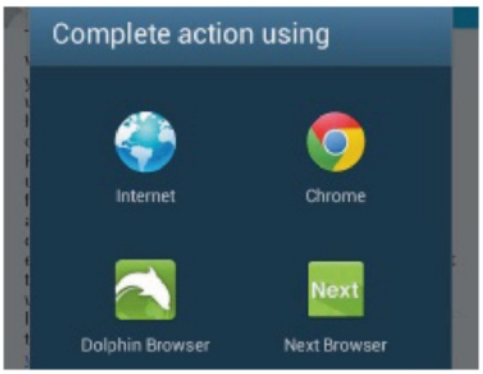
2: It's your choice

Spend some time using the browser to make sure it fits and if not simply download another until you find the best one for you. Your device's default browsers are already very impressive, but some third-party offerings do offer features that are ideal for some users.



3: Clear the defaults

Go to Settings>Application Manager and find the browser that is currently set as the default for opening links, etc. Select it and scroll down the listing until you see a 'Clear defaults' icon. Tap it to ensure that no default browser is currently enabled on your device.



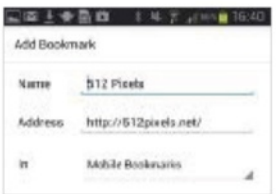
4: Set a default

Open a link and a panel will pop up asking which browser you want to use in this instance. Now tap 'Always' and then tap 'OK' in the next pop up screen. Your new browser will now be set as the default option for opening links and searching in the future.

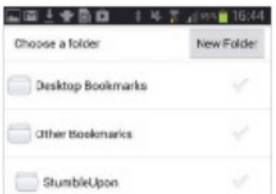
Add a website bookmark

Bookmark any site you wish with a couple of taps

When viewing a page you want to bookmark tap the menu key and you should see a star in the top right-hand corner. Tap this to bring up a new screen with further options.



You can now choose the name of the bookmark and also double-check to make sure the web address is correct. Now tap the 'In' option to choose where the bookmark will reside.



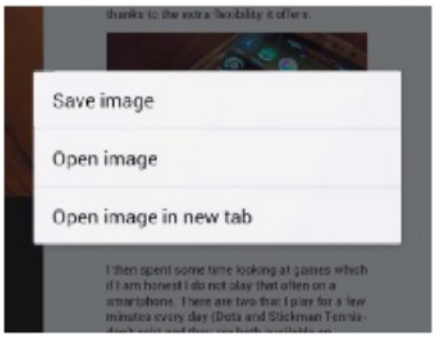
A list of folders will appear and all you need to do is select the one that's right for you. It is likely that you will choose the 'Mobile Bookmarks' option for most new bookmarks.

Download from the internet

Access a world of media from the internet

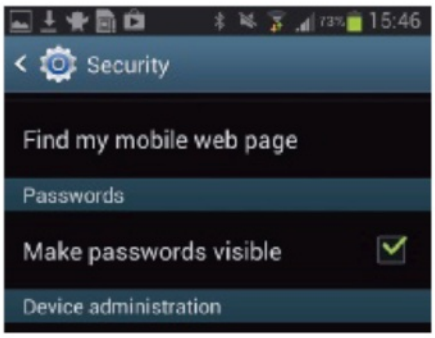
You may not think that downloading files and media on a Samsung device is an important activity, but there are many times when being able to do so can save you time and also add to the flexibility you enjoy on a daily basis. Whether it is grabbing a quick image from a web page or downloading an app that someone wants to share with you, it can all be done in an instant provided you have the right settings enabled and a browser capable of allowing such tasks. We will show you how to set up your device to enable a wide range of downloads and also how to undertake each type of download, but the real surprise will come later when you realise just how useful this knowledge is. Galaxy devices are computers and can be used in similar ways to desktops despite the fact that they can be carried around with you. Android adds to this flexibility because it gives you all of the tools you need to add media to your device and to then use it in ways that will make your device even more useful to you.

Chrome | Get anything you need from the internet



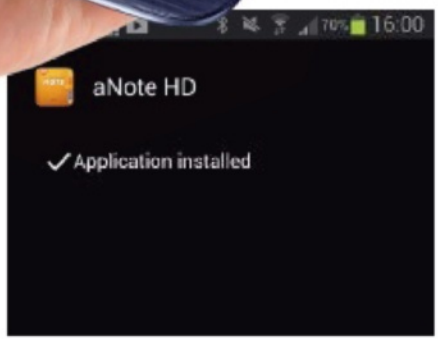
1: Web images

On any web page where you see an image that you like, you should be able to hold your finger on the image until a new dialogue pops up. You can now save the image to your device or open it in a new window. It saves to the Gallery.



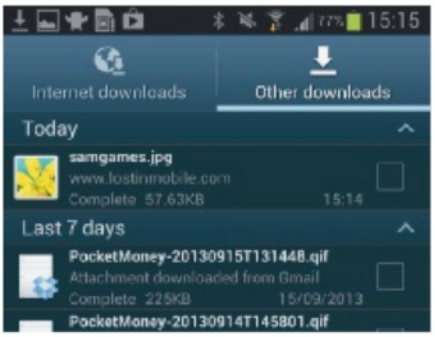
2: Download apps

If a developer or an authorised person wants to share an app with you some changes will be needed. Go to Settings>Security and then look for the 'Unknown sources' option. When ticked you will be able to download apps (.apk files) from sources besides Google Play.



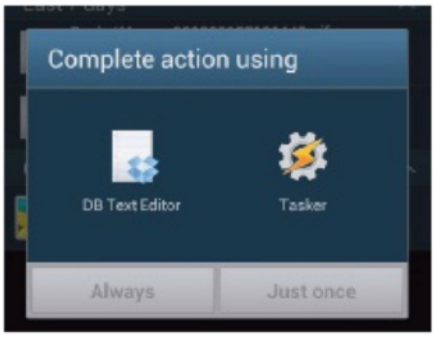
3: Installing apps

When you download apps, you need to be *very* careful. You should be happy that the source is legitimate, that the file is free to download and that it is free of malware. Always check every part before putting your valuable personal data and device at risk.



4: In one place

You will see an icon on your home screen called 'Downloads'. Tap this and you'll be able to see every file that you have downloaded broken down by time. It also divides internet and other downloads into separate panels to speed things up if you download lots of files.



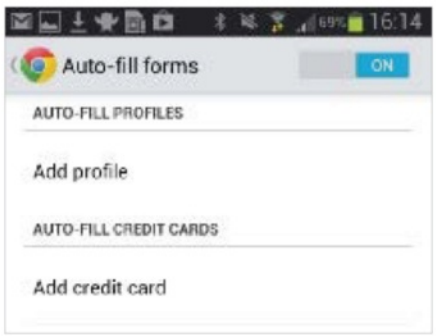
5: Automatic app compatibility

To use the files you have downloaded, you will often be able to simply tap them and choose the appropriate app from the panel that pops up or you will be able to select the file within an app. Sometimes they may need to be moved to a specific folder.

Auto-fill in web forms

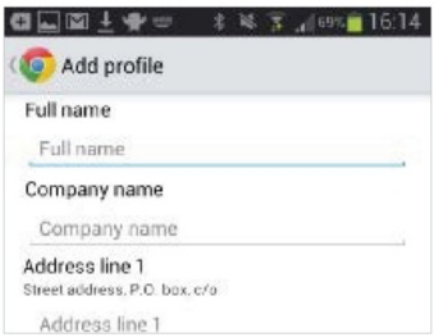
Never enter a password or user name again and remain as secure as possible

The ability to auto-fill forms on the internet is one of the most effective ways of saving time when browsing. If you set up your profile accurately and with all of the required details, you will find that filling in forms in the future will happen automatically and save you a lot of time. Entering data on any mobile device, particularly a smartphone, can be cumbersome and so it becomes especially important and much more effective in this instance. You need not worry about your information being compromised either because it is just as secure to automatically fill in an online form as it is to do it manually. The only way to be completely secure is to look after your phone with a passcode.



1: Find the settings

In Chrome tap the menu key and then look for the 'Auto-fill forms' option. Move the slider at the top to enable it and then tap the Add profile section. You can also add a credit card if you want to make quick payments on sites you have not used before.



2: Complete your profile

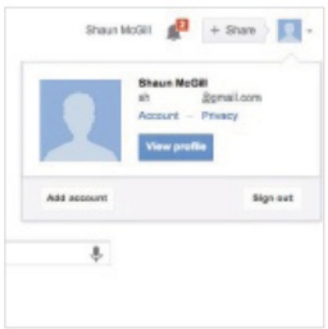
In the profile section you will need to complete as many fields as possible. The information is fairly generic and includes name, address plus phone number and email. Make sure you complete the fields accurately because your answers will be used often.

3: Feel the benefits

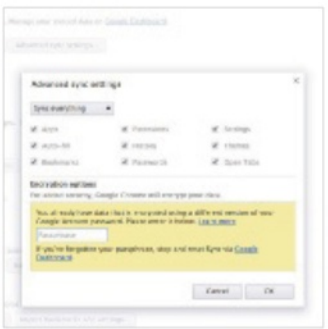
When you next encounter a form on a website you will have the option of doing so automatically. The way these forms are designed means that each field should match the ones in your profile and should result in correct answers every time.

Sync your tabs across devices

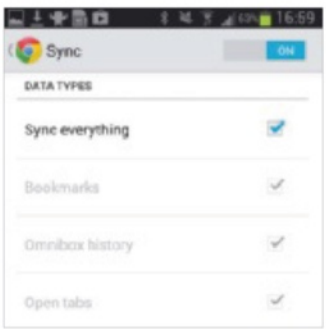
Keep your web tabs in sync



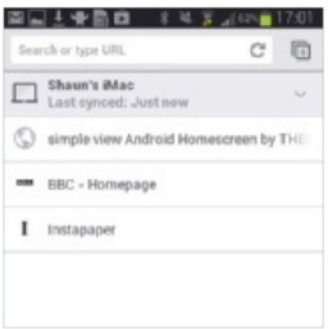
Make sure that you are signed in to your Google account on your tablet or desktop computer using the Google Chrome browser. This is needed to allow each of your devices to see what has been opened.



Go to 'Preferences' in Chrome on the desktop and then select 'Advanced sync settings…'. Make sure that the Open Tabs option is ticked and you can also decide what other features you would like to sync as well.



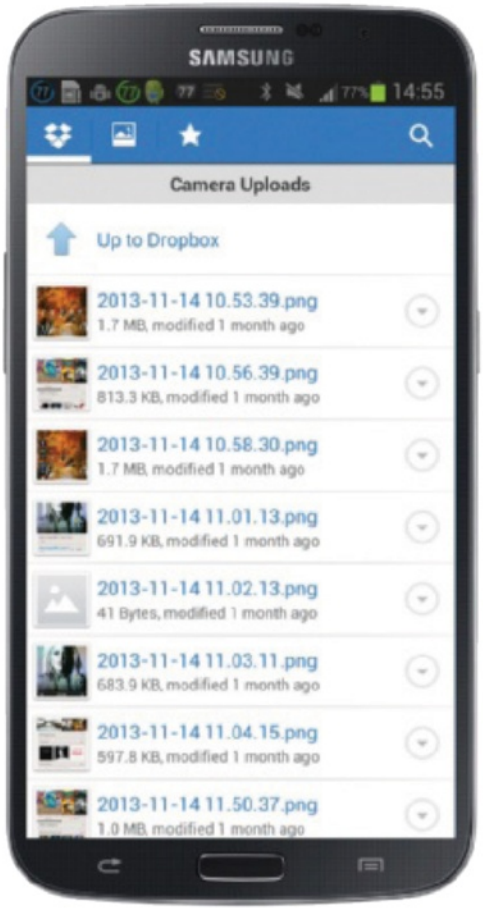
In the Chrome app on your Android device, hit the menu and then choose 'Settings'. Tap your email address and then the 'Sync' option at the top. Make sure that Open tabs is enabled here as well.



In mobile Chrome tap the menu key and select 'Bookmarks'. Tap the bottom right-hand icon and you will be presented with all of the open tabs on your other device. It also works the other way around from a desktop.

Cloud services

Make sure you're getting the most out of the cloud



We're constantly being told that the future of computing lies in the cloud, and slowly but surely we're seeing a lot of our data and information being stored somewhere other than on our physical devices. You might use your phone to take a photo, but instead of saving it solely in the memory of the device, you'll upload it to a cloud server, letting you get fast access to it on a number of different devices wherever you've got a connection to the internet. It means we're not worried about running out of space on our SD cards, and that a lost device doesn't mean a loss of irreplaceable pictures and other files. Making the best use of cloud services can be challenging, so take these tips into consideration:

Make sure you don't use the same login details for all of your cloud services, because if one of them becomes compromised they all will be. Change your passwords often to keep your data safe and you'll be fine. Also, from time to time, check which apps you have connected to your cloud accounts, and revoke the ones you no longer use.

Look for special deals that will get you more storage. Dropbox usually offers extra storage for filling in a questionnaire, and there are phones that come with free cloud storage too. Shop around to make sure you're getting the best deal.

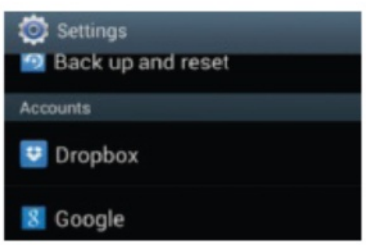
Setting a sync time for when you're asleep is a good idea, especially if you're at home. Then you can use your Wi-fi connection to make sure your folders and files are up to date when you wake up in the morning.

Delete files from your phone or tablet that are stored in the cloud, that way you're not using up space unnecessarily. And keep your cloud folders clean too, especially if you have limited space, otherwise you could find your uploads stalling. Also, consider roaming charges if you're going overseas and intend to take lots of photos. You should turn off automatic uploads, otherwise you might end up with a huge bill when you get home.

In these tutorials we're going to look at some more advanced cloud techniques that let you really get to grips with using your Samsung device to connect to the cloud.

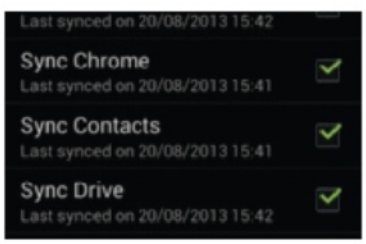
With stronger mobile data connections on the rise, and Wi-fi hotspots becoming more readily available, there's never been a better time to start using the cloud, and if you follow the hints and tips in this tutorial, you can be sure that you're making the most out of the vast possibilities cloud storage can offer Android users.

Cloud up your contacts | How to save your contacts to the cloud right now



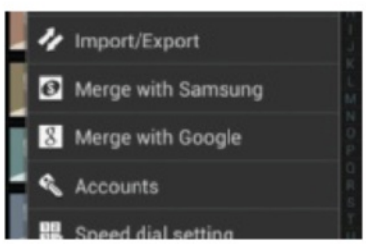
Find your account

Head to Settings and scroll down to find the Google account tab. Tap on this, then select which of your Google accounts you want to sync the contacts to and tap on it to go straight to the sync settings.



Check the right box

Make sure the box next to contacts is ticked. This means your contacts are being synced with the rest of the content that you've got set to sync to your Google account. Now go to your contacts.



Sort out your contacts

Ensure your contacts are merged with your Google account as well. Open Settings and tap on Merge with Google. Choose the right account and when you buy a new phone your contacts will be waiting for you.

Which is the best cloud storage service?

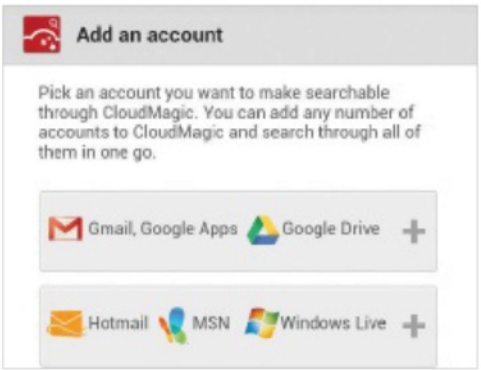
That all depends what you want it for. Dropbox is one of the most popular, and it lets you share items easily across multiple devices. It's simple to use too, so it's a good bet for beginners.

Search all your cloud services

CloudMagic lets you search across multiple cloud services

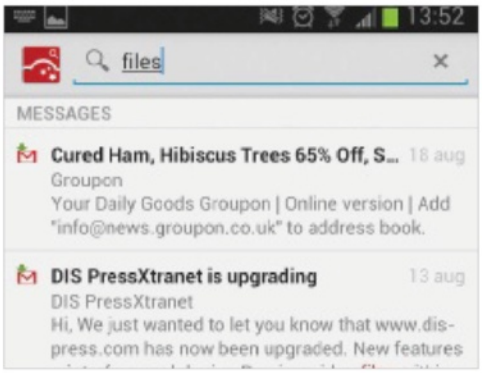
Right now you're probably signed up to multiple cloud services, some of them without even knowing it. A lot of phones come with a Dropbox account, you'll have a Google Drive account if you've got a Google account and a SkyDrive account if you have an MSN account. Keeping control of the content spread across these different services can be a bit of a nightmare. That's where CloudMagic comes in. With one search you can find files across a huge number of services.

CloudMagic | Find files in the cloud


Add an account
Pick an account you want to make searchable through CloudMagic. You can add any number of accounts to CloudMagic and search through all of them in one go.
Gmail, Google Apps
Google Drive
Hotmail
MSN
Windows Live

1: Set up your accounts

After you've downloaded and installed the app from the Play Store you need to create a CloudMagic account, then set about entering the details for the various cloud services you want to be able to access. This is as simple as finding the right one and entering your details.


13:52
files
MESSAGES
Cured Ham, Hibiscus Trees 65% Off, S...
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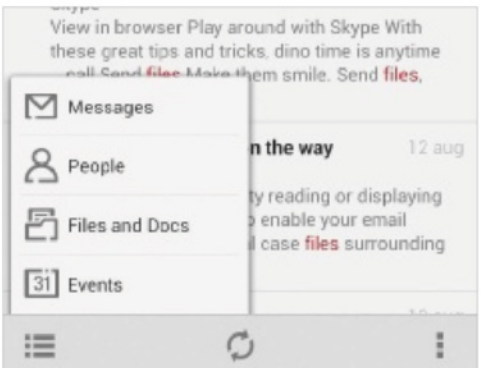
Groupon
Your Daily Goods Groupon | Online version | Add "info@news.groupon.co.uk" to address book.
DIS PressXtranet is upgrading
13 aug
DIS PressXtranet
Hi, We just wanted to let you know that www.dis-press.com has now been upgraded. New features

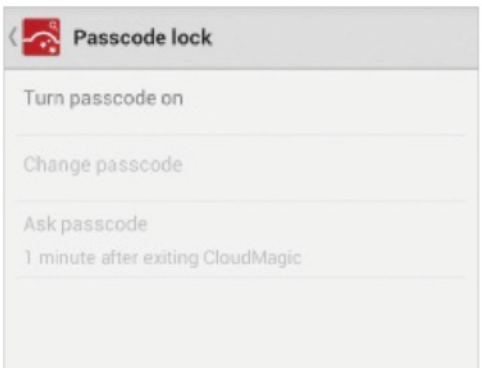
2: Have a search

Once you have connected the accounts that you want to connect, you can search for any files, emails or other information by typing it in to the search bar at the top of the screen. This will trawl through the various services you have linked to find relevant content.



3: Add a filter

Tapping on the button on the bottom-left of the screen lets you add some filters to your search. If you know it's a file you're after – rather than a contact or an event – you can set CloudMagic to only search for files and documents, for example. Tap again to turn it off.



4: Extra security

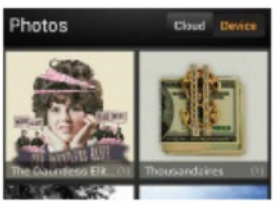
Obviously that's quite a lot of information to have in one place on your device, so it's handy that you can set up a passcode system, as well as a login password, to protect your data. Go to the Settings menu, then tap Passcode lock to set one up that suits you.

Back up and share photos

Make sure your photos are always safe in the cloud

Once you've installed Amazon Cloud Drive you'll need to sign in to your Amazon account. This grants you 5GB of free cloud storage. Once signed in you're taken to the app.

Now choose whether to automatically upload photos. If you don't have much data in your monthly plan, turn this off, as uploading all the photos you take could eat it up quite quickly.



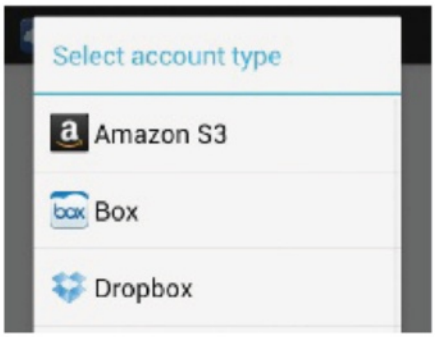
If you've chosen to automatically upload photos, the app will now populate your cloud drive with your gallery. Alternatively, you can select which ones you want to save manually instead.

Sync files between cloud services

With the FolderSync app you can get all your cloud services working nicely together

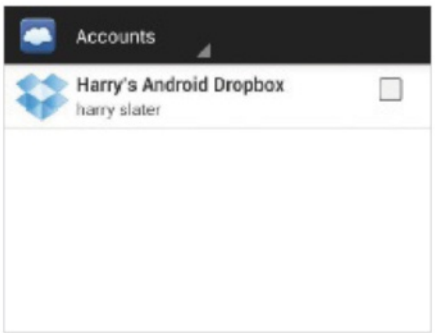
FolderSync is a great way to manage uploading your files to a variety of different cloud services. It gives you greater control of how your files are moved around, and thanks to support with task manager apps it means you can set times to sync your content with cloud services. You can easily set up linked folders to exchange content between your devices, and the easy-to-use UI means you're always on top of your various files and services. This tutorial will show you how to get started with the app, setting up your accounts and using FolderSync (£1.95/$2.95) to start taking control of your cloud services. There's a free version of the app too, so if you're unsure whether FolderSync is for you, we suggest you download that first. It lacks some functionality, but it's a good introduction to how much easier things are with the app installed. Upgrading unlocks additional features. Once you've downloaded the app from the Google Play store it's time to get started by logging in to all of your various cloud accounts.

FolderSync | Manage multiple services



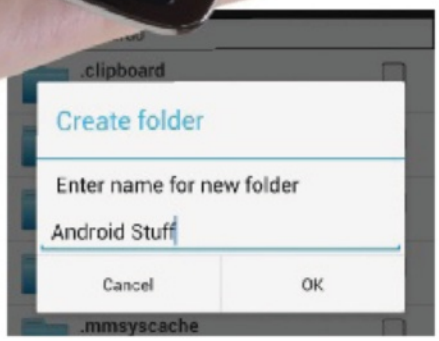
1: Set up accounts

First sign in to the cloud service of your choice. Tap Accounts, then tap on the button at the bottom of the screen. Name your folder, then add in your login details and you're good to go. You will be able to add extra services now or when you sign up to them in future.



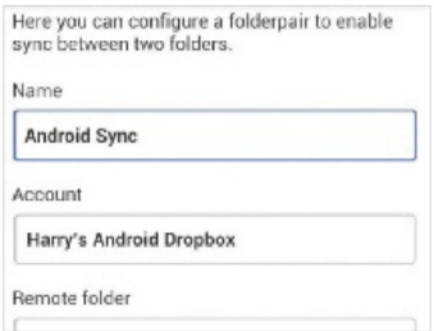
2: Add more

You can now repeat the steps to add extra accounts for the other services you use if you want. Bear in mind that the free version only lets you add two accounts though, so if you want more than that you're going to have to pay for the full version of the app.



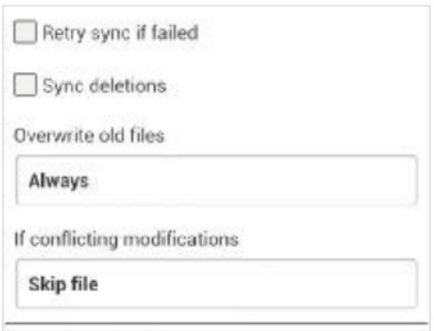
3: Link your folders

Now you can set up a folderpair. This will let you share items easily between a local folder on your device and a folder in the selected cloud service. You'll need to give it a recognisable name, and select the folders in both locations that you want to pair up.



4: Create local folder

It's worth creating a unique local folder to store all of your items in. Do this by tapping the Add button when you're selecting a folder. Once you've named it, you're ready to pair it with the cloud. Head back to the folderpair menu to complete the job.



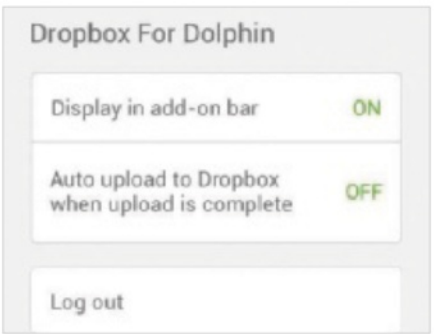
5: Set up schedule

Now you can set when you want your folderpair to sync together and which way. Tap sync interval to choose how often the sync should occur. Use the other options to set how files should be handled. When you're happy, tap the disk in the top-right to save.

Download to Dropbox

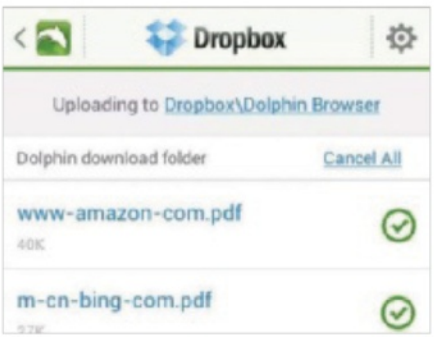
Use the Dolphin browser and a clever add-on to download files to Dropbox from any website

Sometimes you're browsing the web on your phone or tablet and want to grab a file to look at later on your computer. This can be a bit painful, unless you're clever and follow the steps in this tutorial. Using Dolphin browser and a handy add-on, you can download files directly from the web to your Dropbox, meaning they will be viewable on any device you sign in to with your Dropbox account, rather than just your phone. It's something that's remarkably easy to do, and pretty soon you'll be wondering how you got on without this useful function. The first thing you'll need to do is install the latest version of Dolphin browser on your Samsung phone or tablet. When you've done that it's time to go to step one of the tutorial.



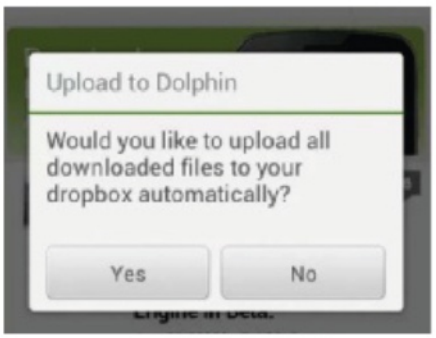
1: Get the add-on

You can either grab the Dropbox for Dolphin add-on from the Google Play store or from within the Dolphin browser itself. Either way, it's free. Once it's installed you'll need to set up your Dropbox account. This will make a brand-new folder in your Dropbox account.



2: Access from the browser

To access your Dropbox from the Dolphin browser, tap on the menu button and then select Add-ons. Alternatively you can swipe from the right of the screen to slide the pane open. You should see Dropbox at the top of the list of your add-ons. Tap on this to open it.

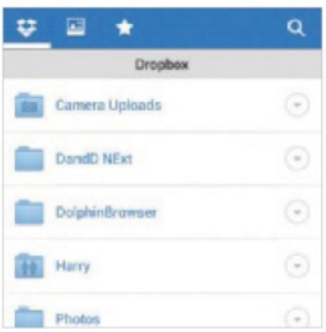


3: Tweak the settings

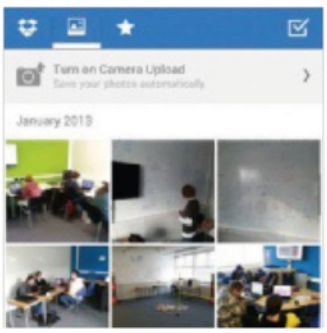
You can set it so once an item has downloaded it'll automatically upload to your new Dropbox folder. This means it'll instantly be accessible on other devices. It does use data though, so you should be careful if you don't have unlimited data in your plan.

Create photo albums in Dropbox

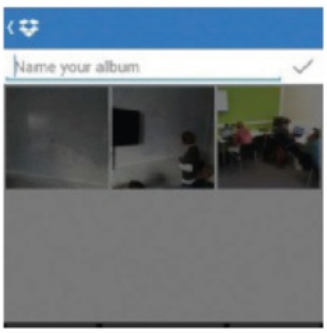
Organise your cloud-based photos into easy-to-manage albums that make browsing easier



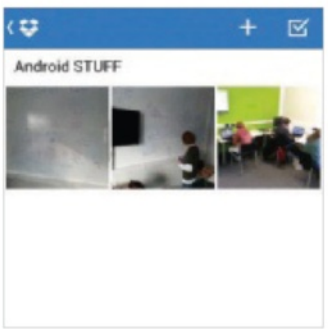
Once you've opened up the Dropbox app, tap on the photo icon that should be towards the top. This will take you to the photos you've uploaded to your Dropbox account from your Samsung smartphone or tablet.



Next, long press on one of the photos you want to add to an album. This will select it. Now tap the photos you want to add to the same album. When you have chosen, tap the album icon at the top of the screen.



Now give the album a name. Type something, and when you're done, tap on the tick icon and the app will create the folder for you. It'll be accessible from the Albums tab in the Photos menu and also viewable through a browser.



Now the photos are grouped together in an album, not only is it easier to find the ones you're after, it also means you can share them as a group with just a couple of taps. To create more albums, simply repeat the steps.

Entertainment

Make your Samsung device the centre of your leisure time

Samsung devices are great for keeping in touch and for getting work done, but they are also incredibly well suited to keeping you entertained. Whether you want to subscribe and read magazines or play games with anyone around the world, you can thanks to the capabilities of the devices and the flexible ecosystem that Google has created around the Android operating system.

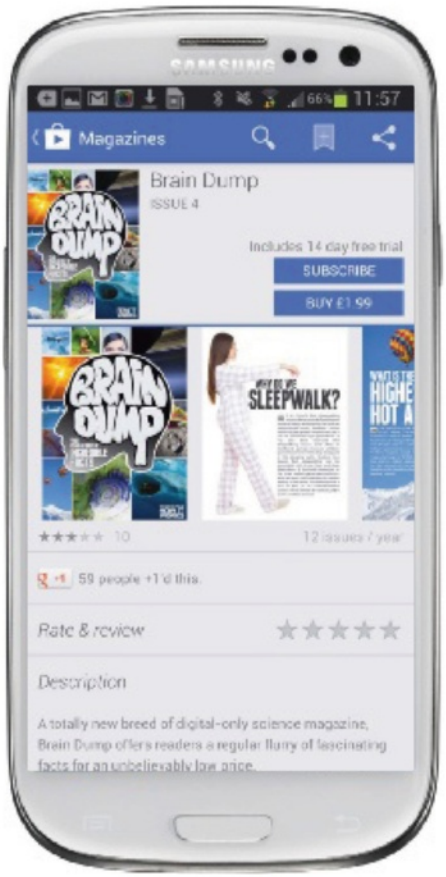
You can listen to podcasts and schedule them to download automatically, and also read books which can be displayed in the ideal format for your needs. Having so many options can be problematic at first with lots of different icons sat on the home screen and you may wonder just where to start. Well, the first thing you should do is ensure that your main Google account is set up on your device and that it has the relevant payment options entered so that you can make purchases. This alone will enable you to make purchases through Google Play and have all of the networking facilities logged in automatically.

It is built to all work together with your account as the main hub and you may be surprised at how easy it is to use and how well it all works together. We will demonstrate some practical aspects of Android entertainment such as buying digital goods and also show you how to play games against people you do not even know. It really is a huge area for Android and one that is growing all of the time which means that even more content is being added every week.

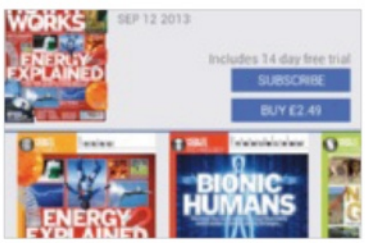
Potentially your Samsung device could become the main tool for your books, magazines, games and podcasts and it could start to take up a lot of your time every single day. If you have a busy life and lots of work to do, it is nice to know that many different and entertaining distractions are available to you whenever you have your phone or tablet with you.

Android has all of the tools you need to enjoy yourself and more content that you could consume in your entire life, so why not enjoy every moment?

> "Your Samsung could become the main tool for your books"

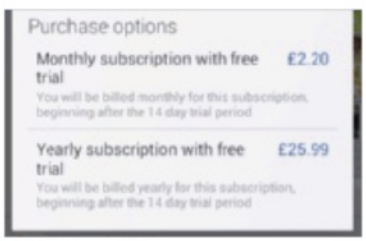


Subscribe to a magazine | Take your reading on the road with you



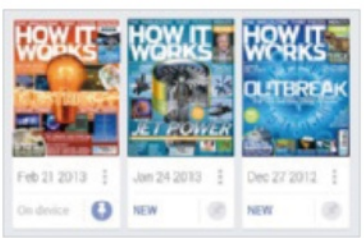
Visit the store

Tap the 'Play Magazines' icon and then the Shop option in the left-hand menu. You can now browse the titles on offer and decide which magazine you would like to try out. Tap the subscribe icon.



Choose your subscription

Choose the type of subscription you require (monthly or yearly) to proceed, but both offers will come with a 14 day trial so you can be sure that you are happy with the magazine and the way it is presented.



Read the magazine

You can now exit the store and you will see the magazines you subscribed to on the main screen when you tap the Play Magazines icon again. The small pin in the bottom right-hand corner lets you download each issue.

Will it all be tied to my Google account?

Your Google account will be used for every purchase you make from the various Google Play stores. This is useful because every book, magazine and game purchase is held together.

Read magazines with ease

Text Flow mode in Play Magazines de-clutters your mag

Transferring a colourful and heavily formatted magazine to a mobile device is far from easy, but you have an option available to you that could help you to read your favourite publications on any Galaxy. The default mode is to present the magazine in the format you know and love, but you can also read every part of the content in text only which will flow to fit any screen size at all. The images remain and the experience feels full so in effect you get two magazines for the price of one.

Read in style | Remove the clutter from a small screen

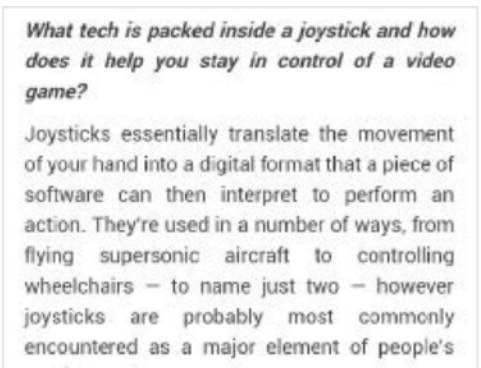
HOW IT WORKS
TECHNOLOGY
How does a gamin
joystick work?
What tech is packed inside a joystick and how does it help you stay in control of a videogame?

1: Looks good, but…

Magazines are naturally designed to offer a visually pleasing experience which offers a huge amount of information on every page. This works well on tablets, but on some smaller screened phones this can make the text difficult to read. You will need to zoom in and out and more around often.

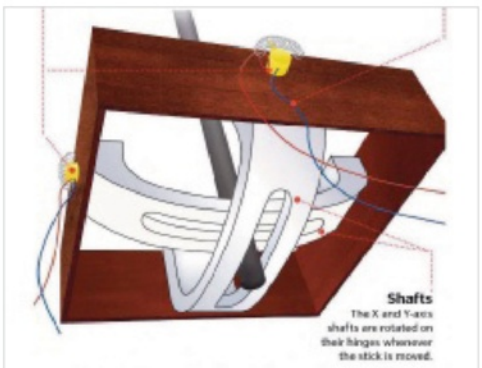
2: Tap the button

Tap the screen and you will see a row of pages appear at the bottom which you can use to navigate through the magazine quickly. You will also see a 'View Text' option at the top. Tap this and you will see the entire screen transform into Text Flow mode immediately.


What tech is packed inside a joystick and how does it help you stay in control of a video game?
Joysticks essentially translate the movement of your hand into a digital format that a piece of software can then interpret to perform an action. They're used in a number of ways, from flying supersonic aircraft to controlling wheelchairs – to name just two – however joysticks are probably most commonly encountered as a major element of people's

3: It's so clear

You will now be able to read the exact same text, but in a much more readable format. You can change the text size by hitting the menu button and choosing between small, medium and large, and you can jump between pages by simply swiping across the screen.



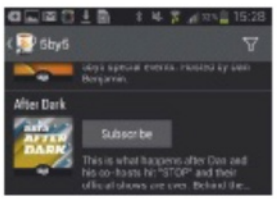
4: Images as well

Despite the fact that the view is now designed to make the text as clear as possible, you will still be able to view any images in the correct locations. These, like the text, are perfectly formatted and positioned to work on any Android screen no matter how small.

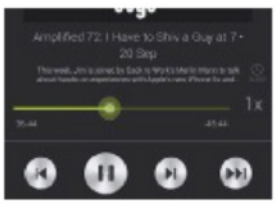
Podcasts with BeyondPod

Get your audio entertainment for free

Go to Google Play and download BeyondPod. It's a visually intensive app and you'll be given podcast choices on the main screen. Tap 'Add Feed' to browse the content.



Find a podcast you like the sound of and then tap the 'Subscribe' button next to it. You then need to choose a category for it to be placed in. Find it on the main screen and tap 'Download'.



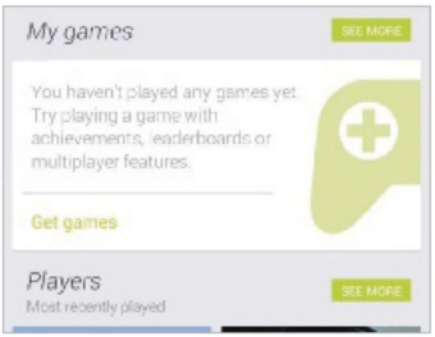
Tap the episode and it'll start playing with navigation controls enabled. You can also tap any episode to stream it without having to download it. There are many features available to explore.

Play games against other people

Play against anyone in the world in Google Games

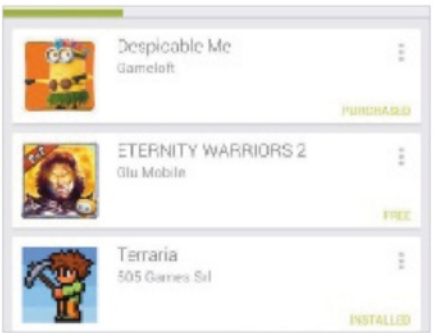
Gaming on mobile devices is not a new idea, but being able to play against friends who are not in your vicinity or people you do not know anywhere in the world is. Google has created a system that will work seamlessly with your Samsung device and one which brings millions of people together in a variety of ways. Despite the wide-ranging nature of this gaming service, you still have full control over what games you want to play and how your information is displayed online. You can choose to just play with friends or you can ask the service to find you opponents from around the world. All of this offers an extra edge to your gaming and we all know that playing against a human will always be more satisfying than against a phone or tablet. There are achievements available to give you a target and potentially this could spur you on to try even harder if your friends are posting better scores than you. The entire set up will drag you in quite deep and potentially turn your phone or tablet into the best portable gaming device you can buy.

Google Games | Play against anyone online in real time



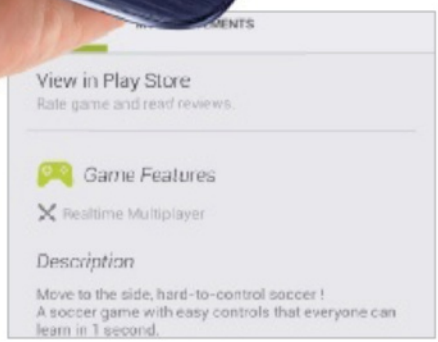
1: Open Play Games

Tap the Games icon to be presented with the main screen. This will show players who you may know, a list of games you have played and will also recommend games to download and play. The social element is also covered with friend recommendations at the bottom.



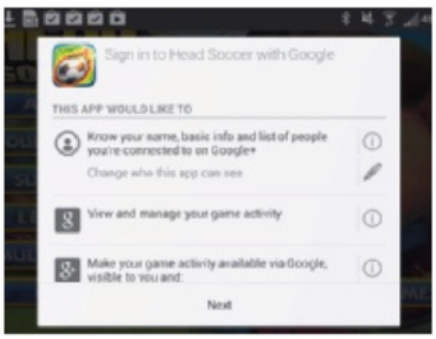
2: Choose a game

Go to the Featured Games section and choose a game that you would like to play. Tap it and you will be taken through the standard installation process to install it on your device. When completed, it will show in Play Games ready for you to play.


View in Play Store
Rate game and read reviews
Game Features
Realtime Multiplayer
Description
Move to the side, hard-to-control soccer !
A soccer game with easy controls that everyone can learn in 1 second.

3: The description

When you select a game a description will be shown detailing its multiplayer attributes. In our example we have chosen a game with Realtime Multiplayer capabilities. This is the type of description you will need to see if you want to play online.


Sign in to Head Soccer with Google
THIS APP WOULD LIKE TO
Know your name, basic info and list of people you're connected to on Google+
Change who this app can see
View and manage your game activity
Make your game activity available via Google, visible to you and:
Next

4: Check the conditions

When you start the game a series of conditions will pop up for you to accept. You need to decide if you are happy with them and you also get to choose if your gaming activity is shown publicly or only to you. Once you are happy, tap play.

5: Time to play

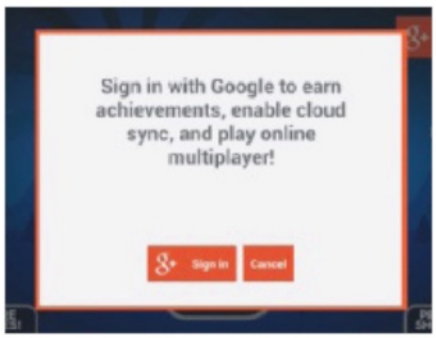
You can now enjoy multiplayer gaming from your Samsung. There are options to choose opponents you know who are online or you can select the 'Auto-pick' option to play against a random opponent. The performance is flawless in most games.

Make the most of cloud saves

Save your gaming progress at any time in Play Games

Cloud saving is a small feature within Play Games that will not be visible most of the time, but it can make a big difference to how you play your games on Android. It will save your last position and progress which will be a huge relief if you have been playing a game on your Samsung smartphone for a long time and don't want to have to start all over again when you want to play on a Nexus 7 tablet, for example.

Not all games support the feature at this time, but as more do it will gradually become an expected part of any game in Android because it really is beneficial. We will show you how to use cloud saving and the good news is that there is virtually no set up process involved at all.

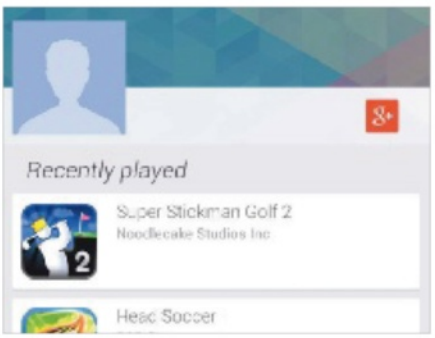


1: Check compatibility

Not all games support cloud saving at this time because the feature is fairly new. If a game includes such a feature it should be noted in the description on Google Play. When you start playing the game, you will be asked to sign in with your Google ID.

2: Play as normal

You can now play the game as you would normally and exit it at any time. The feature is designed to be invisible in standard use and won't be noticeable until you go back to the game on any device and find that it has saved your last position.



3: Your activity

You will see your activity noted in Play Games under My Activity>Recently played and if the game supports cloud saving you should be taken to your last position. The games are linked to the service very closely for maximum efficiency and to keep you playing.

Change your book display

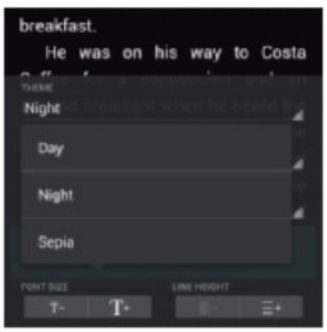
Tweak every book to work perfectly for you

1: Hit the menu

When reading in Play Books you may find that the brightness, colouring or font is not ideal for the way you like to read. Press the menu key to present a list which includes 'Display options'. Tap it.

2: Change the font

Select 'Typeface' to see a list of fonts. Try each one until you find a style that looks good to you. Now tap the 'Font Size' option at the bottom and use the '–' and '+' buttons to adjust the text.



3: Night and day

When the surrounding lighting conditions are dark, you may want to select the 'Night' option to reverse the colours. You can also choose 'Sepia' to give yourself a more realistic paper book style.

4: Lines & justifications

You can also adjust the line height which is particularly useful on smaller screens and the justification to your preference. Different books may suit different styles so be sure to experiment.

Music

Samsung devices handle music in a variety of ways

Smartphones and tablets have largely replaced dedicated music players for those who want to be entertained on the move and on an Samsung device in particular you have multiple options available to you.

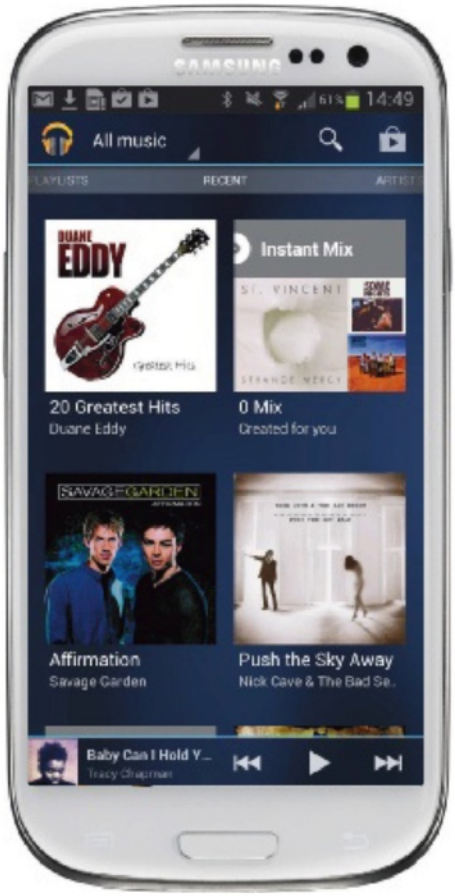
You can copy your entire music library to your phone or tablet from a desktop in a variety of ways if you have the space available and you can even utilise a library of music that is stored on the cloud whenever you have a valid mobile data connection. These two options alone give you access to thousands of tracks whenever you want to play them and will make your device much more useful.

Playlists can be created for different situations and moods, such as when driving, relaxing or trying to drift off to sleep, and you can also use your device to create random music mixes. You can even listen to music that is playing in the background near to you and have it recognised straight away. Gone are the days of hearing a song and wondering what it is and gone are the days of carrying multiple media devices to do different things.

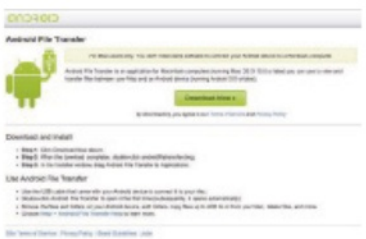
There are some pitfalls to be aware of, however, and we will explain how to avoid these and how to make the most of your mobile music experience no matter where you are. We show you ways to avoid exceeding data limits imposed by your network provider, and how you can access millions of songs whenever you like.

Android can take your music and let you use it in a variety of ways and so much more can be done beyond simply listening to your tracks and enjoying them. They can be mixed and tweaked to your preference and you also have multiple options within Google Play in terms of what apps you want to use to play your collection. It would be easy to spend forever trying out all that is available, but choice is a good thing and like music itself, everyone has a different opinion and different tastes.

One further point to remember outside of the tips we will offer in this tutorial is that a pair of decent headphones or external speakers can greatly improve the quality of sound you get from your device. Most smartphones, even high-end models, are still bundled with low quality headphones and a small expenditure can make all of the difference. Let's get started in showing you how to really enjoy your mobile music.

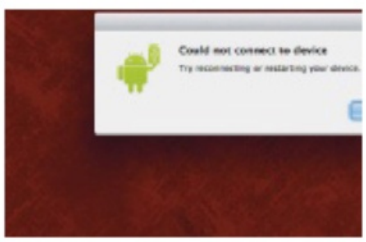


Copy music to your device | Take your entire music collection with you



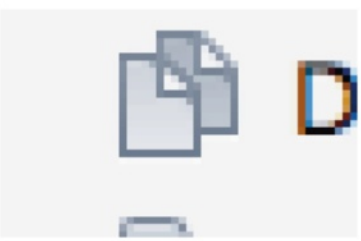
The best software

If using a Mac, Android File Transfer, available from **www.android.com/filetransfer/**, is recommended as an official solution which works with every Samsung device. For Windows, you won't need extra software.



Connect your device

Connect your device to the desktop computer using a USB cable and either Android File Transfer software will appear or your standard Windows file manager. You may need to restart your device to get it to connect.



One more option

If your Samsung device uses an expansion card, you could take it out and insert it into your desktop if it has a compatible slot. Now simply drag tracks to the Music folder on your expansion card.

Why are music files so large?

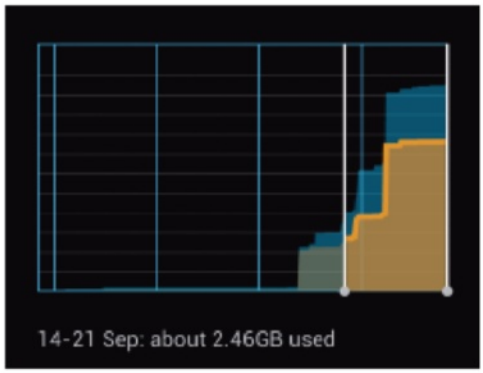
Music files are commonly over 10MB in size these days, but tracks can be much larger if they are encoded for extra high quality. The larger the file, the better the quality but transferring larger files may take some time.

Avoid network data charges

Try to avoid expensive music downloads without wi-fi

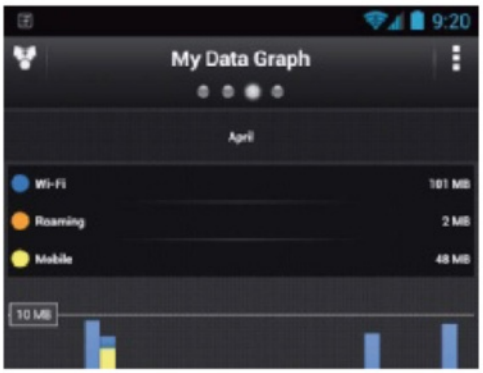
Most mobile data plans are limited and with this comes the possibility of expensive coverage charges if you exceed the limits. Music may not seem like a data hog, but remember that one album could easily take up more than 100MB of your allowance and that even single tracks can be quite large. Fortunately you can automatically limit your downloads to ensure you don't exceed your data plan and this tutorial shows you how. Once set up, you won't need to touch the settings again.

Mind the cap | Escape excessive data charges



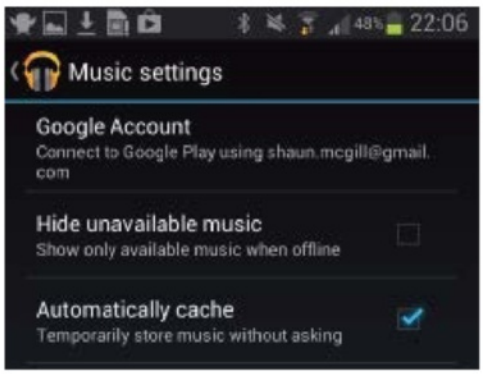
1: General data usage

The first place to start is by going to Settings/Data Usage where you will be able to view your data statistics. You can choose a set period of time to view your usage. You can then see exactly where your data is being used and try to adjust your mobile data usage accordingly.



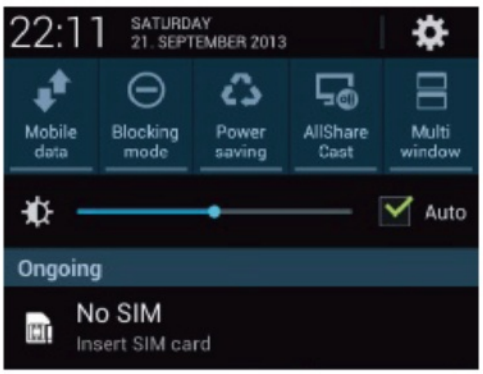
2: Set some alarms

You can take your data management further by using an app like My Data Manager – Data Usage which is available from Google Play. It lets you set alarms when certain points are reached so that you can proactively stop future downloads before they take you over your allowance.



3: Wi-fi only

In Google Play Music, go to Settings and make sure you tick Stream via Wi-fi only and Download via Wi-fi only. Streaming can take a lot of your data and in some cases more than downloading the tracks. These two settings will stop you ever downloading over 3G.

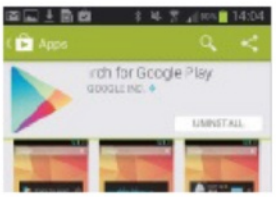


4: Disable mobile data

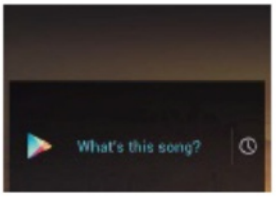
If you are still not sure if an app will use mobile data to play music tracks, you can always access the quick settings by pulling down the notification bar and scrolling through the settings at the top. Now make sure that Mobile data is not highlighted to deactivate it.

Download Sound Search

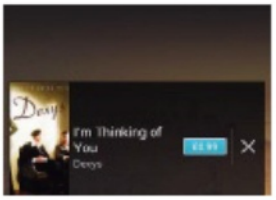
Know every song in an instant with this clever widget



In Google Play search for Sound Search. Download and install it – you will not see an app icon because it is a widget. Follow the process to add the widget to your home screen.



The widget will be shown with What's this song? in the middle of it. When you can hear a song in the background and don't know what it is, tap the widget and wait for the results.



The song title will be displayed along with a music cover. You can now tap anywhere on the widget to be taken to Google Play to either purchase the song or stream it in All Access.

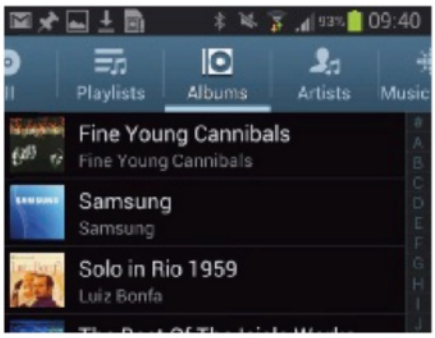
Make a playlist

Create playlists for any occasion

No album is perfect and it is likely that you will have a selection of songs that mean a lot to you and a group of songs that are perfect for a specific occasion. It is also likely that there are some songs that you play many more times than those in the rest of your collection and so it makes sense to try to keep them all together in one place for playing when you feel like gaining some musical inspiration. Add to this the fact that we all have different moods at different times so a set of songs that you love may not suit when you feel like dancing for example.

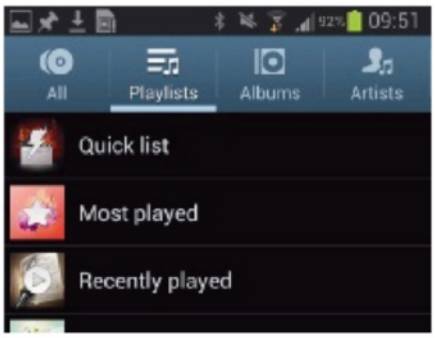
Playlists are the perfect way to create multiple groups of music tracks that you can play when you feel like listening to a particular set of songs whatever the occasion or mood. You can title them for quick reference and add and remove tracks from lists whenever you want to. We will show you how to create playlists and how to tweak them for your needs. As with everything if you spend some time carefully curating the music you want, the feature will be hugely beneficial to you.

Build a moment | Music to suit your mood at any time



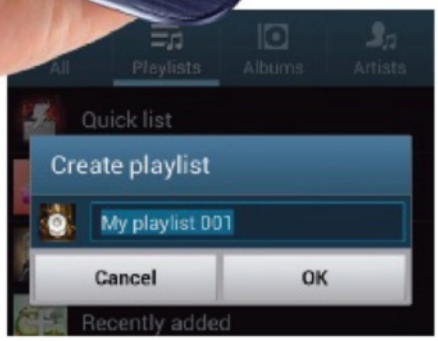
1: A simple option

In the standard Music app you will see a set of icons at the top which are always available to you. Look for the Playlists icon and tap it to proceed. You do not need to touch the menu key and this key will be used for accessing your created lists.



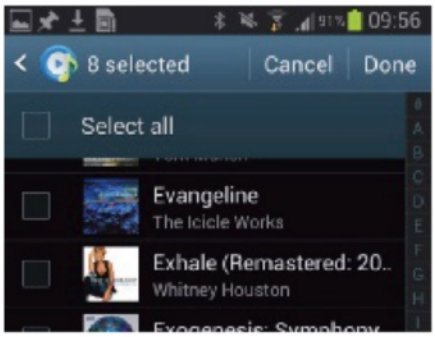
2: Automatic playlists

When you tap the icon you will see that some playlists are automatically built already. They will have been created from your most played tracks and from those tracks that you have recently added, and will likely play more than the tracks you have owned for some time.



3: Name your playlist

Press the menu key and then choose Create playlist from the options presented. A new dialogue will appear asking you to give your new playlist a name. Do this and then tap OK. At this point another screen appears with an option to add music at the top.



4: Add some songs

A listing of installed tracks will appear with tick boxes next to each of them. Tick the songs that you want to include in your playlist and then tap Done at the top. You can also tap Select all at the top, but this will add every single track.

5: Edit your playlist

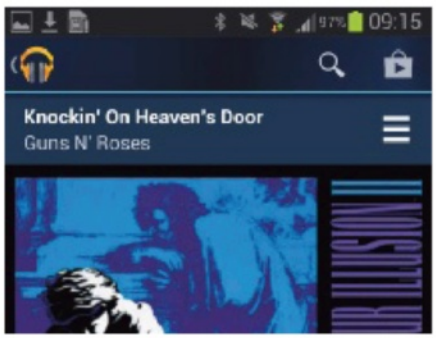
When viewing your created playlist, you can press the menu key and you will see options to Add and Remove tracks which are obvious, plus you can also share your playlists in various ways. You can even change the track order and rename the playlist here.

Build an instant mix

Create and play an instant mix in a matter of seconds

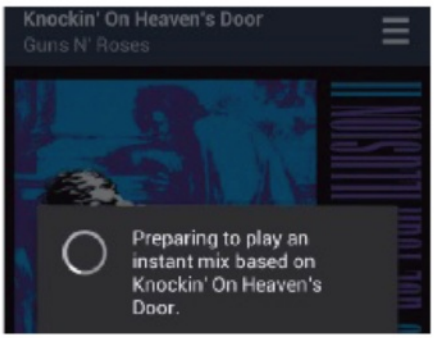
Instant mixes offer many advantages for those times when you are not feeling too particular about what you want to listen to. In the Google Play Music app, the software can build a set of tracks for you to suit a particular mood in under a second and all it takes is the tap of the menu key and one tap on the screen. This is perfect if you are about to drive and want a selection of songs, but of course it is not for those times when you want to hear specific songs. The good news is that the software is incredibly intelligent and will surprise you by how well it can match tracks together and create the perfect mood.

Let's create a mix and you can see for yourself how easy and intuitive it is.



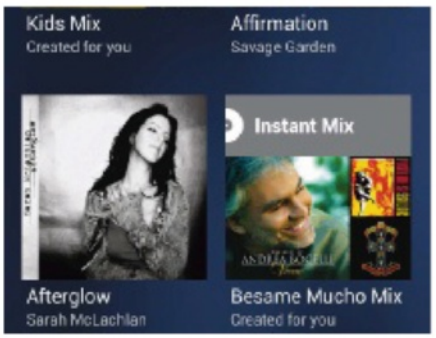
1: Choose a song

Choose a song that fits the mood for the kind of mix you want to create. Think carefully about this choice and also consider what other songs you have loaded on your device that would fit in to a similar genre. Now tap the menu key to proceed.



2: Play a mix

Tap Play instant mix from the options that appear and following a message on the screen the song will continue to play as normal. If you now move to the next track it will be one chosen by the service that fits the mood, this will be true for the next tracks too.

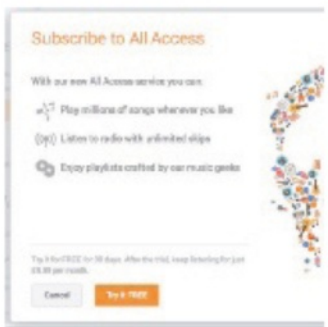


3: Mixes galore

You should now see the mixes saved in your main music library, but you can also save the queue by tapping the menu button and choosing Save queue. You could end up with many mixes so try to limit the number you make to avoid confusion.

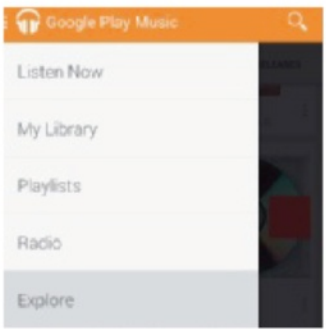
Use Play Music All Access

All of the music you will ever need

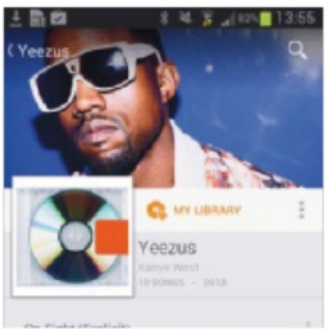


Go to **bit.ly/17Urr2k** on your desktop computer and click the Try it free for 30 days option. Now enter your address and billing details and select the Download Music Manager option to upload your music.

Install the software onto your desktop and then open it. The app should automatically start to upload any music held on your computer to the Google servers for accessing anywhere. This could take time.



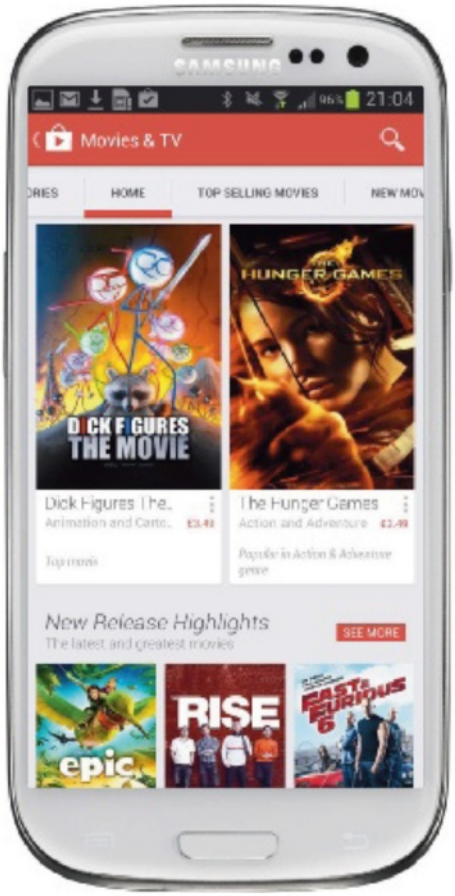
On your device, open Play Music and the songs you have uploaded will be shown in the main window. You will also have access to a new menu which includes a Radio option plus the very powerful Explore feature.



In the Explore section you will be able to stream any track you want without delay and also add selections to your library for playing anywhere. You can also create your own radio station and listen to stations from other users.

Movies and videos

Make the most of the video features available on your Galaxy

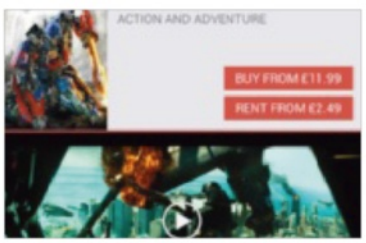


You may not consider your tablet or smartphone to be the ideal platform for watching movies and short videos, but when you look at the functionality that is available your view could change very quickly. A smaller screen has the obvious disadvantage of making the movie smaller, but conversely it can be used anywhere with a pair of headphones which enables you to enjoy a film on the daily commute or whenever you have some spare time. You can rent and purchase videos from Google Play at competitive prices and also download videos to your device via a PC to view whether you have an internet connection or not. YouTube is built into the operating system and the mobile version is almost as capable as the full desktop website these days with many standard features present and even the ability to watch a video while you continue to browse the available content. You can watch your films via a TV with compatible equipment and also store a list of videos that you want to watch later when you have some spare time.

As you can see, the variety on offer is staggering and the more you watch the content available, the more you will want to explore what is online. From every new feature film to funny short clips, it is all on hand and able to be played on your device with ease. When you watch videos wirelessly or stream content, please remember that these are data hungry activities so be careful not to exceed any data limits imposed by your network provider. Also, they can run the battery down quicker than normal so make sure you have a spare battery or a charging point handy if you intend to watch hours of videos daily. There really is little you cannot do on an Samsung device when it comes to movies and video so you may as well jump on board and see what is available. We will explain the basics of the various features and leave you to enjoy all that your device and the related services have to offer.

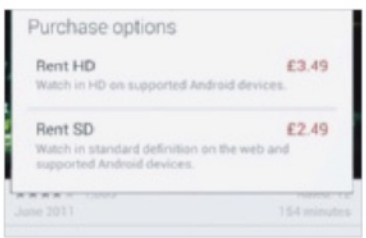
> "The variety on offer is staggering, the more you watch, the more you will want to explore"

Rent a video | Rent any video on your Samsung device



Find a film

Head to the Play Movies app, tap the Shop option in the left-hand column and then peruse the movies to see which one takes your fancy. Tap the Rent icon, if available, to start the rental process.



HD or SD

Many movies will be available in standard definition and high definition. A pop up will appear offering you the option. Make your choice and proceed through the next screens to complete the purchase.

Time to play

The movie will then be available in the Play Movies app under My Movies. Now tap Play to start watching it. The process will only be slowed when the film is downloading. Rentals display an expiration countdown in the app.

What are the different video file formats available?

Videos can come in many different file formats and this is where an app like MX Player Pro can come in handy. It supports a huge range of formats natively.

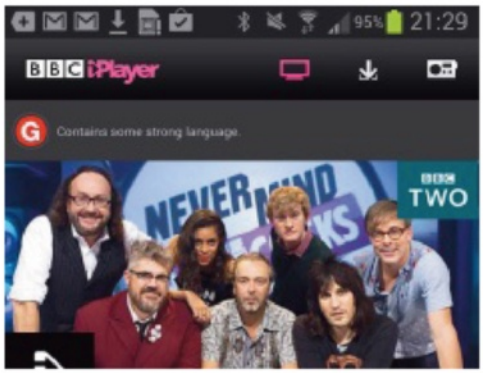
Download favourite videos

Watch videos without an internet connection

Video streaming can be expensive over a mobile connection and so it makes sense to download videos for offline use if you can. There are many different ways in which you can do this and we will demonstrate some of the best options available.

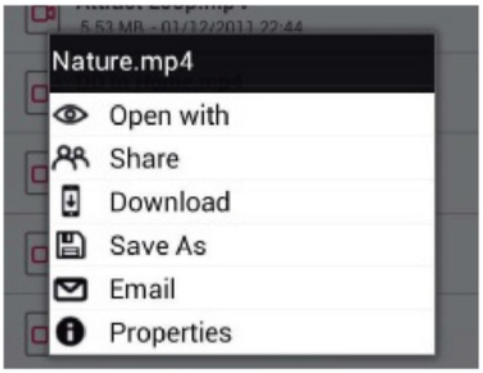
These are merely suggestions and a quick look on Google Play will bring back many alternatives, but we should at least be able to show you how easy the process is, no matter what service you use. Let's download some videos for offline playback.

Download any video | Take advantage of a variety of useful services



1: BBC iPlayer

The latest versions of BBC iPlayer let you download most shows for watching whenever you want to. The process is easy – simply tap the download button when viewing a listing, and this will mean that you can watch the show no matter where you are, even if the internet is unavailable.



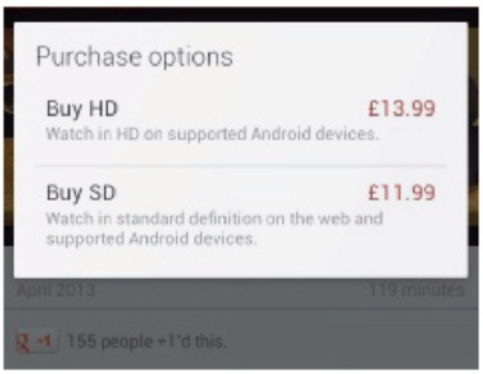
2: A wireless drive

A wireless enabled hard drive can be used to pass video content to your Samsung device anytime. This means that you can hold your entire video library on the drive and either stream it or download direct to your phone or tablet. WD 2go is a very good example.

2 days ago
Funny Football Moments - Part 1 - - YouTube
www.youtube.com/w...
May 29, 2012
Amazon App for Android
Download from Google Play

3: MultiClip downloader

Some apps like MultiClip give you the ability to download videos stored on online services. There are many available, but you need to be careful as to which ones you choose to ensure that you are only downloading content legally. They can still offer a rich resource of useful content.



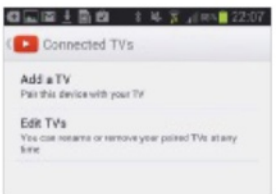
4: High quality movies

The movies section of Google Play gives you access to all of the latest releases in high and standard definition. Once you have made a purchase, the movie can be downloaded to your device for playing at anytime. It's the best way to experience offline video on any Samsung device.

Pair a TV using YouTube

Connect your device to a much bigger screen

In the YouTube app on your Samsung device, press the menu key and select Settings. Tap Connected TVs from the list to continue the process and to see a set of TV-related options.



You will now be given two options to add a new TV and to edit or remove any that have already been set up on your device. Select Add a TV to proceed to the important part of the process.

Follow the instructions on the next screen to ascertain the correct pairing code for the TV you are trying to connect to. Once entered they should connect to each other in seconds.

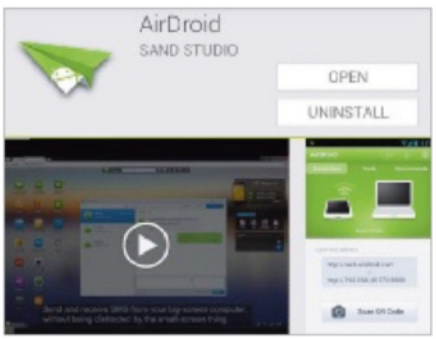
Add videos from your desktop

Transfer videos from your desktop without wires

There are many options available if you want to transfer videos from a desktop PC to your Samsung device. Android File Transfer, available from **www.android.com/filetransfer/**, is recommended for most Samsung devices and offers a simple file view of your device folders which you can drag and drop videos to. It is very reliable, but there have been some connectivity issues suffered on some phones so we will be looking at a different option. Some manufacturers, such as Samsung, bundle their own software for managing media from a desktop and your mileage may vary with these, but they are fully featured and will give you all of the options you need.

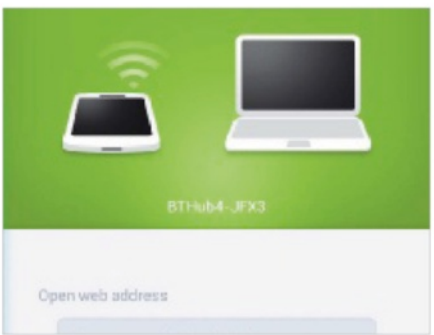
For this tutorial, however, we are going to use AirDroid which lets you transfer large files without the need to physically connect your device to a desktop. Setting it up is a breeze and in our tests it worked on every single device. It is also quite quick when dealing with large files, but a wired connection will always have a speed advantage.

Move your videos | Carry your favourite videos with you



1: Get the app

Go to Google Play and search for AirDroid. The app is free to use and perfectly safe so all you have to do is install it as normal and wait for the process to complete. This solution will cut out the need for any USB cables or physical connections.



2: Time to connect

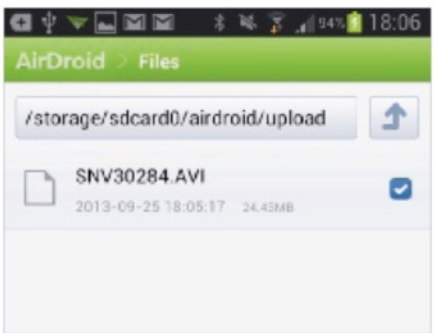
Open the app and you will be asked to enter one of two URLs in a desktop browser. We would suggest using the second one as this has proved to be very stable in our tests. Make sure that Wi-Fi is enabled on your Samsung device and desktop.

3: Transfer a video

Make sure you have a file browser open and that you can see the AirDroid screen. Now choose the file you want and drag it over to the bottom black box on the right of the screen. Simply let it go and the transfer process will begin.

4: Taking some time

If the video is large the transfer process could take some time to complete, but a handy progress meter displays the percentage completed. The process is slightly slower than using a wired connection, but it's worth the convenience of connecting with ease.



5: Move it around

The video file will be placed in the AirDroid folder on your expansion card, but you can use the app to cut it and then paste it into the standard Videos folder. This will ensure that it can be found by the apps that you want to play it in.

Multi-tasking videos

Browse YouTube while watching a video at the same time

Google has implemented a very clever trick in the YouTube app and that is the ability to watch a video in one small section of the screen while simultaneously browsing the app for other videos to play. It might sound as though it could not possibly work, but it really does and even on a small smartphone screen the experience feels natural and at no point does anything become muddled. It is a way to multi-task on a mobile device even if you do not have the facility built in and it can help you to jump through video after video during a prolonged YouTube fest. The process to utilise this feature really is as simple as tapping one button, but we will show you how to do it anyway.

1: Find a video

Find a video on YouTube that you like the look of and start playing it. If you are holding the phone vertically, the video will take up the whole of the top part of the screen and play in landscape mode. Tap the video window to proceed.

2: A small arrow

When you tap the video window you will see a small downwards arrow in the top left-hand corner. The video will continue playing while all of the controls are displayed, but if you tap the small arrow the video will shrink and jump to the bottom.

3: Browse and watch

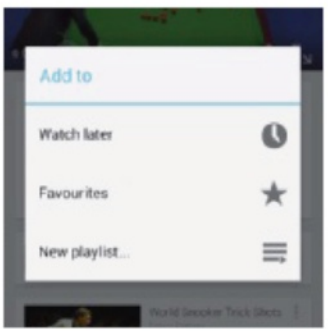
You can now use the rest of the YouTube app while the video continues to play in the bottom corner. No matter what you touch outside of the video it will continue playing. If you tap the video it will jump back to the full size window at the top.

Use Watch Later lists

Create and access a YouTube Watch Later list

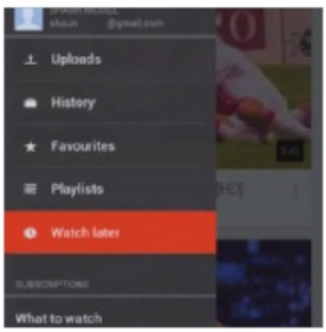
1: The '+' icon

When you are watching a YouTube video, tap the window to bring up all of the on-screen controls. You will see a '+' icon at the top – tap it to bring up a further set of options.



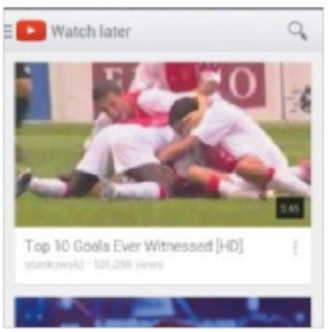
2: Choose your option

The menu that pops up will offer a choice of watching later, adding the video to your favourites or creating a new playlist. Pick the first option and repeat for every video you want to watch later.



3: Access your list

Tap the main menu key top left to bring up a long list of options. Whenever you want to access your list of videos to catch up on, simply select Watch Later about half way down.



4: Time to watch

You will now be able to view all of the videos you have saved for later viewing in the correct order. It's a simple feature, but it works very well indeed and is actually quite addictive.

Photography

Boost your device's potential in the infinite world of smartphone photography

It's no secret that image capture on smartphone devices has exploded in recent years, and has brought about a photographic revolution. Digital photography will never be the same again, and nor will it be reserved for the fortunate few who can afford top of the range DSLR models. Nope, now with the staggering performance and variety available to all smartphone users, photography can be enjoyed by everyone.

Devices are constantly improving in quality, where just a few years back we were seeing low-quality snaps, nowadays we are seeing amazing high-resolution cameraphone imagery. There's never been a better time to let your creativity run wild, and with the huge wealth of photography apps available out there, you won't be short of inspiration either. If you're more of a purist and would rather create your shot in-camera, there are a surprising amount of options waiting for you in your Camera app's settings. You can tweak essential settings such as ISO and white balance in order to achieve the best shot. Or, if you prefer your smartphone to do the smartening, there are hundreds of apps available to crop, edit and filter your photographs and transform them into something beautiful.

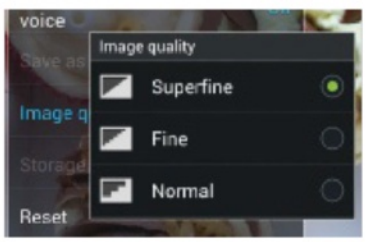
Your Galaxy can be used as a hub for storing all of your images too. You can use your Gallery app to sort, store and share, or why not try out a superb app for the job that makes everything super easy? We'll even show you how to use QuickPic, an app that makes finding your images a doddle.

Video capture has also advanced massively in smartphone cameras, and you can now snap still images at the same time as recording video clips. We will show you how to get the most of this feature, and then we will also guide you through the process of sharing a whole batch of your image files at once. If you're keen to show off the fruits of your labours on social networks or by email or text, or perhaps you just need to back the files up for safekeeping, being able to export your images as a group saves you loads of time. We will also show you how to create a stunning panorama from your Camera app, so read on and get creative.

Alter photo quality | Delve into your camera's settings and boost the quality of your images

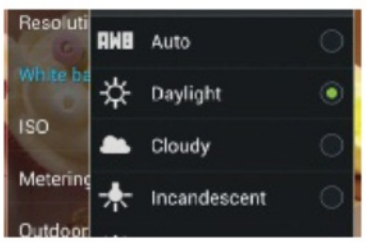
Tweak the resolution

To capture as much detail as possible and for printing at the best quality, use the maximum image resolution. Hit the cog icon in your Camera app, tap Resolution and then select the highest value in the list.



Pick quality settings

In the Settings section, scroll to Image Quality and choose Normal, Fine or Superfine. Normal image quality is still usable but produces smaller files, whereas Superfine is ideal for high-quality shots.



Test camera settings

For other ways to alter the quality of your actual images, test out other options that you can find within the Settings menu. Trial combinations of ISO, white balance and metering to create the perfect photo.

Can I apply filters in-camera?

Tap the icon next to Settings that looks like a magic wand. Here you'll find a selection of filters from Vintage to Negative. You can preview them before taking the shot.

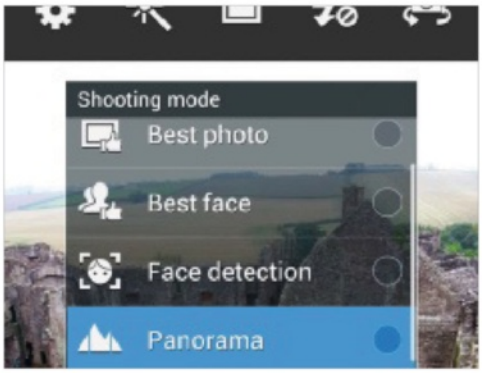
Shoot a stunning panorama

Sweeping vistas made easy by Android

The best thing about smartphone photography is that you always have your Samsung device in your pocket to snap a memory in the making. The field of view available for a single shot is pretty good, but there are some situations that call for a more considered approach.

If you're trying to capture a scene in its entirety, why not shoot a panorama? Camera apps now have these features built-in, and you needn't mess about with stitching images together as this is all taken care of, leaving you free to create a seamless panorama of the scene in front of you.

Capture the scene | An amazing way to fit it all in

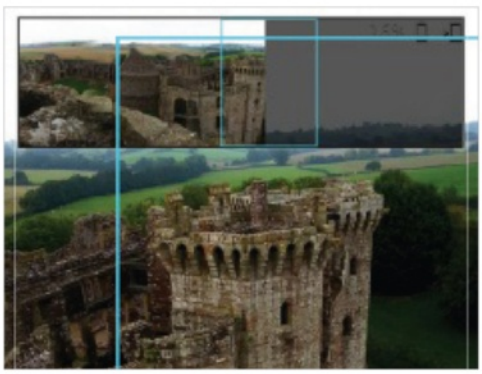


1: Select the function

Open up your Camera app on your Samsung. At the top of the interface you will see a few icons for various different camera functions. The centre icon contains your choices for Shooting modes. Tap it and scroll down to tap on the Panorama option, which has an icon that looks like mountains.

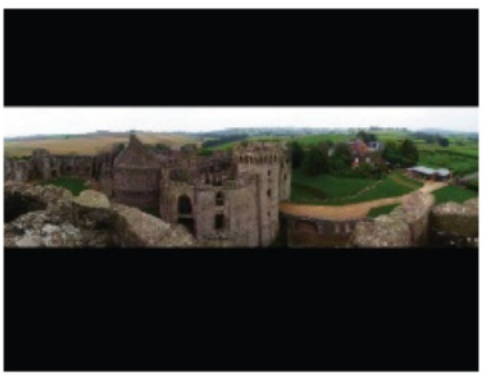
2: Begin shooting

To shoot your panoramic image, begin by lining up your shot. Tap the Shutter button at the bottom of the camera interface once to begin shooting and then slowly and steadily sweep your camera around the whole scene, in order to capture it in all its glory.



3: Sweep the camera

As you shoot your panorama you'll see a small preview of your shot appear, showing the progress of your image. To help you line up your images exactly, you will see guidelines showing you which part of the image is currently being photographed and where to line up your camera next.



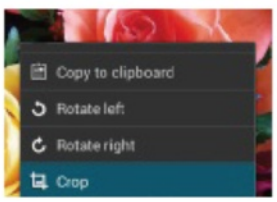
4: View your masterpiece

Once you've taken enough images your camera with automatically stop shooting your panorama. When it's finished shooting, tap on the small preview button in the bottom-left corner of the camera interface. This takes you to your Gallery app where you can view your impressive panorama.

Crop an image

Change the size of your shot

Start on your home screen and open up your Gallery app. Scroll through the images in the various folders of your gallery and once you've found one that you want to crop, tap on it to open it up.



Hit the Options button on your device to call up a host of choices. Scroll through the many options by dragging your finger up or down the list, then tap on Crop. A bounding box will appear over the image.

Tap, hold and drag the corners of the box to crop the image. Everything inside the box will remain, and everything outside will be removed. Then hit Done and your crop will be saved as a new file in your Gallery.

Organise images with QuickPic

A great app for sorting your images

QuickPic is a free app available from the Google Play store that helps you to organise your library of images. This may seem like a really simple task for an app to focus on, but as the cameras on today's smartphones get better and better, photography is following suit. You may find yourself getting hooked on the photo bug and this will lead to hundreds, or potentially thousands of photographs being stored on your device. The simpler it is to keep track of them, the more fun you can have editing, sharing and showing them off.

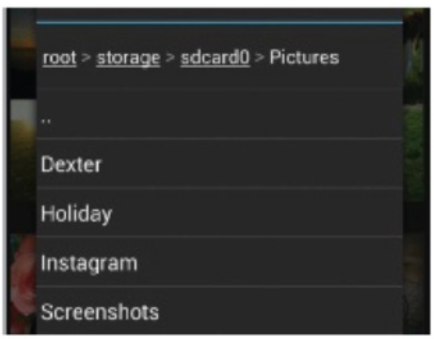
The beauty of QuickPic lies in its absolute simplicity, as it takes what you've already got and arranges it in a clear, easy-to-use way.

You can do everything you could possibly want, from sorting your images into folders and albums to editing, cropping and modifying your snaps. You can use QuickPic as your go-to app for all of your images, or use it for a select few albums that you need to keep tabs on. Here we'll show you how to create a new album for a few of your shots.

Create an album | Put special shots into one folder

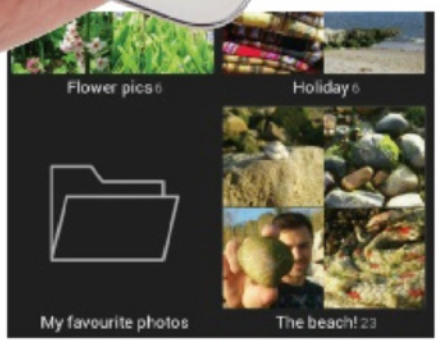
1: Get the app

Go to the Google Play store and type QuickPic into the search, then install and open the app. The first thing you'll see once you launch QuickPic is that all of the images on your phone are displayed in attractive boxes. Tap on one of these boxes to open the album.



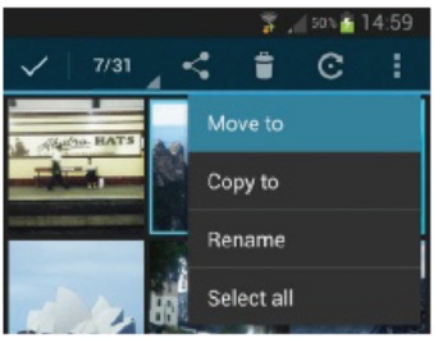
2: Add an album

To make a new album, head back to QuickPic's home screen and press your device's Options button. Tap on Add, then either select a location to add your new folder to, or at the bottom tap on New. This will add your new album to the home screen.



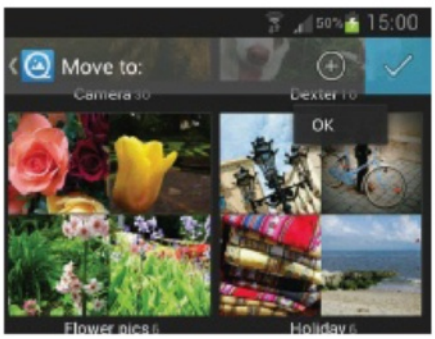
3: Give it a name

Type in a name for your new album on the next screen, then hit Done when you're finished. You'll then see your shiny new album appear on the home screen straight away, but it looks sad and empty, so you need to start putting some images in it!



4: Add some images

To add images to your new album, tap to open up one of your existing albums from the QuickPic home screen. Hold-tap on a photo and you'll see a blue border appear on it. This means it's selected. Go ahead and select other images in the album.



5: Move to album

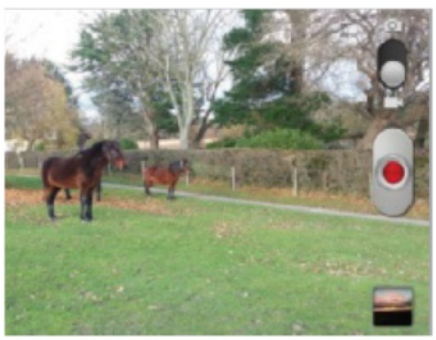
With images selected, tap the small menu icon in the top-right, then tap on Move to. This will take you back to your home screen where you can select which album to move these images to. Tap your new album, then the tick in the top-right to confirm the move.

Take video stills

Snap some photos at the same time as shooting a video clip

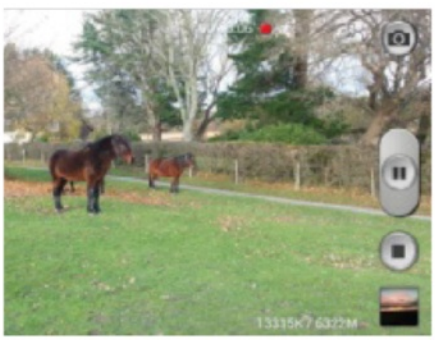
The superb ability to shoot great-quality video clips on smartphones has made capturing those special moments that much easier. Whether it's blowing out the candles on a birthday cake, your baby's first steps or just simply capturing a beautiful day out, a means of saving all of those special memories is always available in your pocket.

A great feature of the video function on Samsung devices is the ability to snap still photographs at the same time as capturing a video, so you get the best of both worlds all at once. It's super easy to do and the shutter button is conveniently located on the screen, meaning that you needn't compromise your video in order to capture a regular photograph.



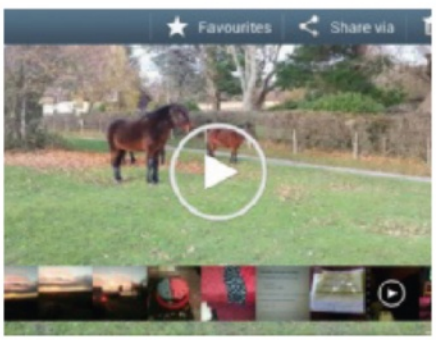
1: Switch to video

Open your Camera app and switch it to record video via the button found in the bottom-right corner of the interface. Toggle it to the left to turn on video recording. A red record button will replace the conventional camera shutter button at the bottom.



2: Start rolling

Hit the red record button to begin filming your video. As you do this a button with a small camera icon will appear in the bottom right-hand corner. This is the stills-capture button. Tap this at any time during your video filming to snap a photograph of the scene.



3: Review your shots

Press the red button again to pause filming, and the Stop button to the left of it to finish up. Tap the small preview button in the bottom-left corner to take you to your Gallery. The photos and video that you just captured will all be stored here for you to show off.

Share multiple shots

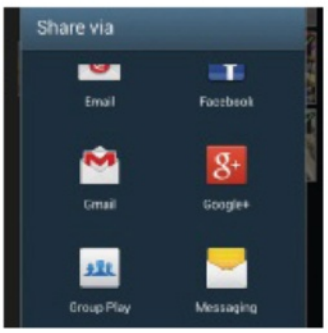
Save time by sharing a batch of photos

1: Find your snaps

In your Gallery app if you tap and hold on an image you'll see a checkbox appear. Scroll through all your albums and put a green tick in the corner of every shot that you want to share.

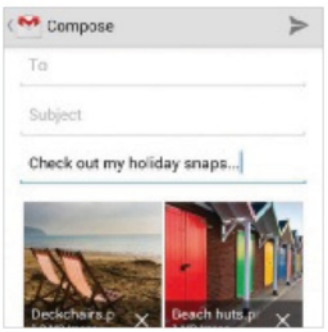
2: Sharing options

In the top-left corner you will see how many images you have selected to share. Next to this is the 'Share via' icon, so tap on this to discover all of your available sharing options.



3: Select the destination

Scroll through these options to see what's available. You can share your images on Facebook, or send them via email or text message, or you could even back them up to Dropbox. We've gone for email.



4: Finish up

Once you tap an icon you'll be taken into the relevant app to complete the sharing process. Here our shots were automatically attached to an email, so now we can enter the recipient and send!

Samsung Hub

Access your multimedia content from within the Hub

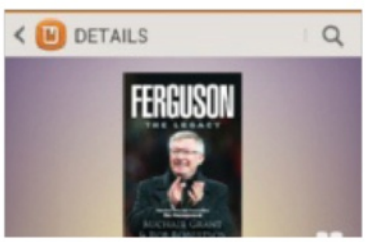
Samsung Hub is a collection of built in applications on your Samsung Galaxy that are designed to pull together music, games, video and learning into a single location. There are five hubs in total, namely: Music, Books, Video, Games and Learning. While each app is designed to handle a different sort of media, such as music, they all have one thing in common and that is that they link to stores where you can buy new content and download it onto your device. In the past the different services were individual apps that could be used independently, but now they have been brought together in a single service that is easy to navigate through. All the apps work with your Samsung Account so you'll need to log in first to start using them. When you make a purchase, depending on the app, you can pay by charging the item to your phone bill, use a voucher or connect a credit card to your account. Prices across the stores are very competitive and match what you would expect to pay using another service. For example, in Readers Hub the prices are on par with what you would expect to pay using Kindle while Music Hub prices are similar to Spotify or iTunes.

Readers Hub is a neatly presented app to buy and read books, newspapers and magazines and comes with all the tools you'd expect from a digital reader such as the ability to add bookmarks and make notes. The Learning Hub follows a similar layout but is built to bring together your courses and learning content and track your progress as you pick up new skills. If you're looking for entertainment over academia you'll find the music, video and game hubs a perfect fit. While the Music Hub includes a store to purchase individual tracks and albums it also comes with a subscription option where you pay a monthly fee to stream music from your device. Video Hub doesn't have a subscription option but it does have a lot of great content on offer to download and watch wherever you are. Game Hub is by far the simplest of the lot with the options to browse and download recommended games. By pulling in all gaming content you already have it offers a neat place to go for a bit of fun.

Readers Hub | Buy and read books on your phone

The Books Section

Either swipe right to left to reach the Books section from the Hub homepage or tap the Books icon in the middle of the screen to be taken to the Books Store, where all the titles on offer are waiting.



Browse the store

Touch the word Books to open the book store. Here you can browse hundreds of titles by category or see the bestseller list. To buy a book tap the title to see a detailed view, then tap the Buy button.

Learn reading gestures

Open a book to start reading. Turn the page by swiping your finger across the screen. Long press at the top of the screen to add bookmarks and notes. To create a shortcut to a book long press in the library view.

Can I read my books on other devices?

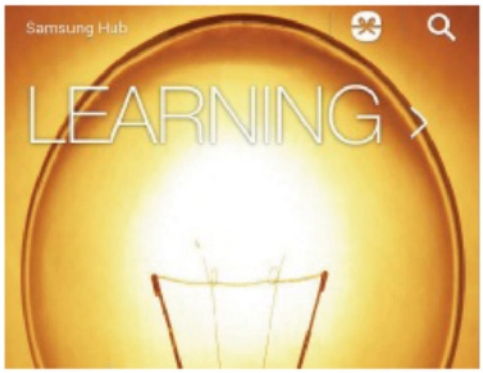
Yes you can. If you're using another device such as a Samsung Galaxy tablet you can view all your purchases by signing into your Samsung account on your other device.

Learn something new

Start a course with Learning Hub

It's never too late to pick up a new skill and with the Learning section it's easy to start that course you've been putting off for years. This learning app is excellent for school children and students, but it is also great for those that have left the classroom and still want to learn a thing or two. The hub interface stores the courses that you download or buy and lets you track your progress by making notes and creating bookmarks as you go. From here you will find all manner of course to try.

Learn a language | Find and purchase a Spanish course

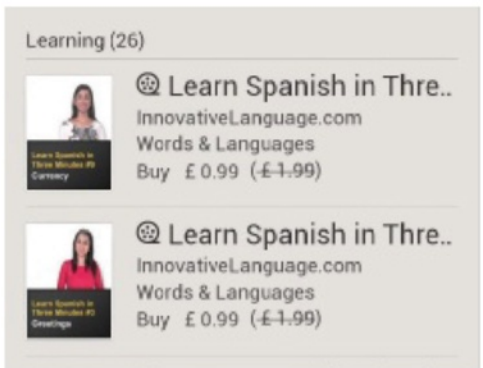


1: Open the hub

Much like the Books section there is a home screen to Learning, where some of the most popular and recommended items are listed. Tap any of these to enter the store and preview them, or tap the word Learning to move into the store and start at the home screen.

2: Visit the store

This is the learning store where you can buy courses, text books and learning material. The featured section will show current top picks. You can also view new additions or search by category. You can also look through lists of the top paid and free courses that are on offer.



3: Search for Spanish

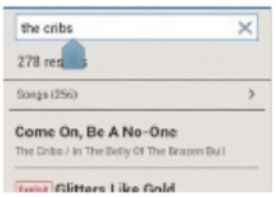
Locate the search icon and tap once. Use the keyboard to type Spanish. This will bring up all courses containing that phrase. Swipe down to scroll through the different options from phrase books and conversation practice to full language courses. The price will be listed.

4: Purchase and begin

Tap the option you want, such as Learn Spanish Conversation and Phrases. View the Overview and Contents tab to get an idea of what's included in the course. You can also read reviews from other users in the Reviews tab. Tap Buy to purchase the course and start learning.

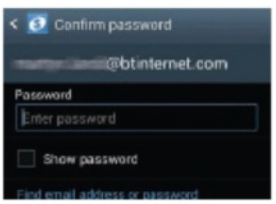
Buy a track or full album

Purchase music to add to your collection



Search for the song or album you want to buy by tapping the search option from the app's home screen and typing in the track or band name. Tap OK and select from results.

Tap and hold on the song or album name to bring up options available. At the bottom of the list you'll see the listed price. Tap Buy and you will start the purchasing process.



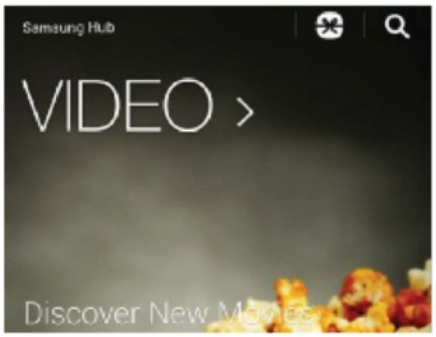
Enter your Samsung password to charge the cost to your account. You'll see this come up on your phone bill. You can also view your purchases under the Account tab of Music Hub.

Watch a TV Show

Download and watch content on your device

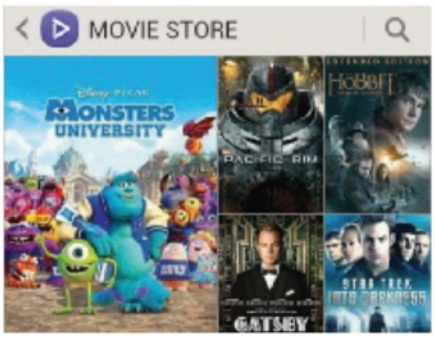
Watch films and your favourite TV shows on the move through Samsung's Video Hub. Much like iTunes, the application offers video content for you buy. On opening the app you'll see recommendations and new films available for you to purchase. All your purchased video content is collected in the Purchased tab. Head here and tap to watch them in the video player. Because the application is linked to your Samsung Account, the content you buy is linked to the account rather than your device. You have the option of authorizing other devices to access your videos on. To do this enter the Settings menu and then retype your password. You can authorize up to 5 devices which you can switch between. While there is a limit to the number you can authorize, you can swap them out as much as you like. When downloading content to a device be sure that you're connected to WiFi as video files are data heavy and it could eat into your mobile data allowance if you don't keep an eye on it, resulting in a shock when your bill comes.

Search Video Hub | Find your favourite TV programs



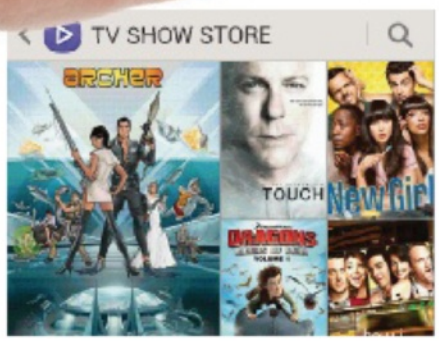
1: Open Video Hub

To get started tap swipe to the Video section, or tap the Video icon. Like the other Samsung Hub applications everything you do within the app is linked to your account rather than your device itself, so you can actually watch videos across different devices.



2: Browse Store

The home screen of Video Hubs shows a list of items that are new in store. Swipe left or right to go through the list and tap an item to view more details. Scroll down on the screen to see films that are new releases, bestsellers or special categories, such as Disney.

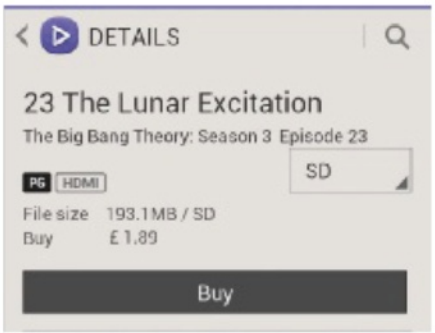


3: Scroll TV Shows

On the store's front page, swipe right to move to the TV section. TV shows are listed by genre ranging from Animation to Comedy. Tap a option, such as Kids to view. If you know what you want to watch tap the search bar and type it in the box to search.

4: Select an episode

Once you've found the show you want to watch tap once on a Season of the show and then scroll to view info about individual episodes. Some series are available to buy per season and others per episode. Tap an episode to view the individual price to buy it.



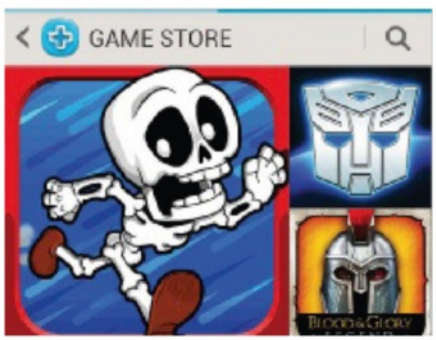
5: Watch your show

Tap the Buy button to make your purchase. Choose a method of payment such as by voucher or credit card. Once you click to purchase you can watch your show straight away. Navigate to the My Videos tab to see the videos you have downloaded.

Play games on your Galaxy

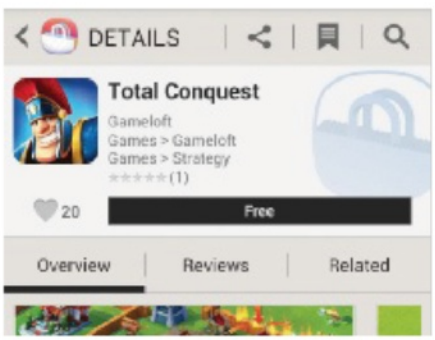
See all of your downloaded games in one place and get playing more easily

Games Hub is the place to go to see all the games you have installed on your device and get some inspiration for new ones you might like to play by seeing what else is popular. When you install a game on your device, it will appear in your app tray. But, because that can be quite a crowded space developers created the Hub, so if you feel like having a quiet game of Scrabble or an adrenaline filled race with Need for Speed you know exactly where to find them. The app also recommends games and links up with the Saumsung App store where you can purchase and download games. If you already have a game and you want simply find it under you installed games, the process is simple – tap and get started.



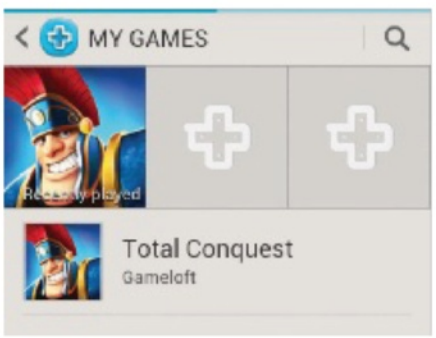
1: View home screen

Open Games Hub to view game suggestions split into various genres and sections. Swipe to scroll through the options or tap the Select Category option to view specific games selections such as Gameloft or Sega. You will be taken to lists of the Samsung App Store.



2: Select a game

To purchase a game tap it once from the recommendation screen. A detail view of the game will open in the Samsung app store. Tap the Buy option to download it to your device. Once downloaded you can see the game in the Installed section of Game Hub.



3: Tap to play

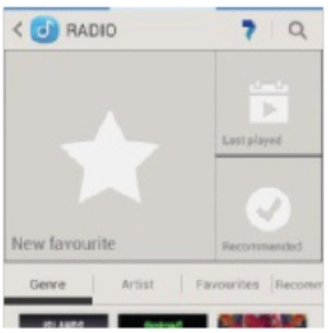
Once a game has been installed and downloaded it will appear in the My Games section of the app. This can be accessed by swiping right-to-left on the Games homes creen. Tap the game from the list and you're ready to play.

Stream music on your Samsung

Listen to tracks with Music Hub

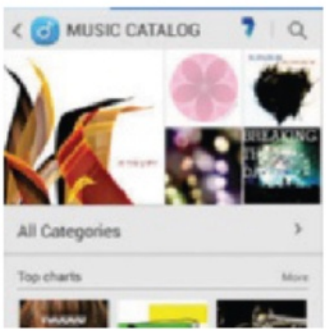
1: Launch Hub

Sign in using your Samsung Account. If this is your first time using the app you will be given a seven day free trial. Once that runs out you'll need to subscribe for £9.99 a month.



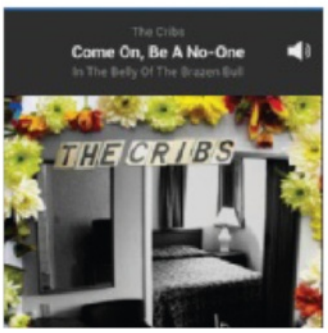
2: The home screen

From the home screen you can play radio, search for tracks or see recommendations based on your music. All of these different sections can be accessed by swiping left and right.



3: The catalogue

Tap the catalogue item to open the tab. Here you'll see music listed by genre such as Rock and Dance. Tap a category to see a list of songs and albums available. You'll also see available radio stations.



4: Tap to play

Decide on a track or album to play and tap once. A small player will show up at the bottom of the screen. Tap to view track details. You can also control the player in your notifications pull down.

Samsung S Apps

Stay organised with a selection of built-in applications

Samsung's four built in S apps are designed to make your day to day life easier by giving you tools to keep you organised and on top of your tasks. The S apps are S Memo, S Planner, S Suggest and S Voice. While they form part of a wider collection of apps that come with your device, including options such as Music Player and the various Hubs which control media content, they're grouped together because they each perform specific tasks.

S Memo is the most in-depth of the four apps and it's built to translate your thoughts into visually engaging notes. The app groups notes on a smart home screen that users can pan through. Whether you need to jot down a quick thought or you want to design a pretty recipe page, this is the place to go. Notable functions include the ability to import pictures and draw shapes which means mind maps, charts and graphs are easy to add and work with. You can even attach voice notes to a page if you don't have the time to scribble something down.

Like any good organiser, S Planner includes the usual functions such as adding tasks and events. But, it also pulls in all calendars from accounts that are connected to your device such as your Gmail and Facebook birthdays which means you can see everything that's happening in your life in one convenient place. We take a look at how you can add events and create task lists with S Planner to keep your life running smoothly.

If you want to go hands free you can use the intuitive S Voice to make notes and enter events for you by simply talking into your device. With a few simple comments you can have your device working for you without touching a button.

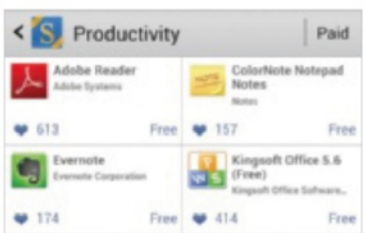
The last app of the foursome is S Suggest which is the place to turn if you need new app inspiration. Scroll through to see what's recommended for you and download or buy the application that tickles your fancy directly through the app.

> "S Memo is the most in-depth of the four S apps"

View productivity app suggestions | Browse recommended apps with S Suggest

Launch home screen

Tap the S Suggest icon to open the home screen. Here you'll be presented with recommendations based on your preferences and device, for example, if you have an S Pen you'll see the most useful apps for that.



See user suggestions

Tap the Categories tab and scroll down to Productivity. Here you'll get recommendations for tools that will improve your workflow. Tap an option, such as Adobe Reader and view likes and comments left by other users.

Download from Play

If an app sounds good and you want to add to your device simply tap the download button in the Detail View screen. You'll be taken to the Play Store where you can download or purchase an app with one quick tap.

Where do the suggestions come from?

S Suggests generates recommendations from the type of apps you already have installed as well as from what others are using. You'll always see the most popular and highly rated apps first.

Plan your schedule

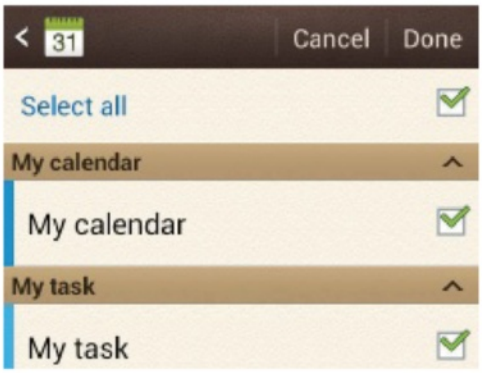
Add important events to S Planner

S Planner is a simple but effective way to plan your time and manage a busy schedule. The calendar app brings together calendars from all the accounts you have connected to your device so everything's in place. You'll find swipe functions particularly useful as you can scroll in all directions to navigate days and months. The Go To function is also good to know. Tap the Menu button on your device and then choose Go To. Put in the date you want to view and save yourself the scrolling.

Add an event | Enter and save event details and helpful notes

1: Tap to add

Open the S Planner app and switch to view by month by tapping the arrow in the upper right hand corner and selecting the Month tab, you can change this view at any time. Highlight the day of the event by tapping once and then tap the plus icon to add new event details.



2: Choose correct calendar

Because all your connected calendars show up in S Planner you have the option to choose which one to add your event to. Tap the Calendar button and then choose which one to add it to. Adding an event to a Gmail calendar, for example, will show up online too.

3: Add details

Tap to enter the title of the event and additional important details such the start and finish time as well as the location of the event. As you scroll down the Add Event page you'll see options to add participants, notes and even images such as a map or invitation.

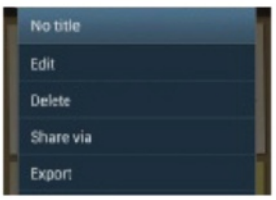
4: Save and View

Save the event and close the detail view window. Your note will appear under the specified day. To view it tap the date under the Month View and you'll see it under the Day View with the time of the event blocked out. To change details tap the event again.

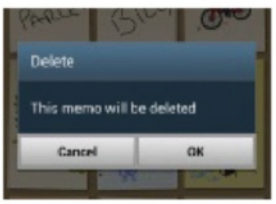
Delete a note in S Memo

Clean out old folders of notes you don't need

Open up S Memo to the home screen and then tap and hold on the note you want to delete. This will bring up a pop-up menu of all the options you have available with this note.



You will notice that the pop-up list contains a huge number of options for what to do with the note in question. About half way down the list you'll find the Delete option.



Tap the Delete button and then tap OK to confirm. The confirmation screen will tell you how many files you are deleting to confirm that you're getting rid of the correct ones.

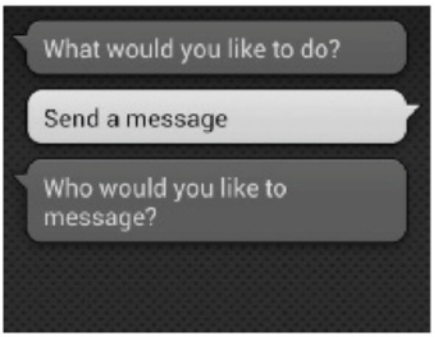
Command your voice assistant

Use S Voice to carry out tasks

S Voice is Samsung's built in voice assistant, ready and at your service. The simple interface can be deceptive but underneath it lies an incredibly intuitive piece of software that allows you to perform tasks just by speaking into your phone. While you can ask S Voice general questions and return quite accurate answers, the app really shines in performing tasks that you'd usually have to type for, such as sending a message. By default the app is set to talk back to you confirming your commands. To turn off this function head into the Settings menu which can be accessed by tapping the Menu button on your device. When not in use the app puts itself to sleep. To wake the app up simply say 'Hi Galaxy'. If you want to customise the word or phrase your device responds to you'll also find this under the Settings menu. You can choose to keep S Voice easily accessibly by setting it to respond to your command at any time while you're using your device. While this is a useful function to have it can also drain your battery easily.

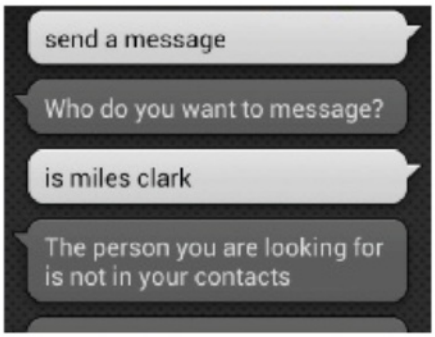
SAMSUNG
I found the following conflicts on your calendar:
BIG DEAL - UK TOUR - N...
OK, here's your appointment. Would you like me to save it to your calendar?
06 NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY
No title
10:00 - 11:00
Cancel
Save

Send a text | Use your voice to type a message



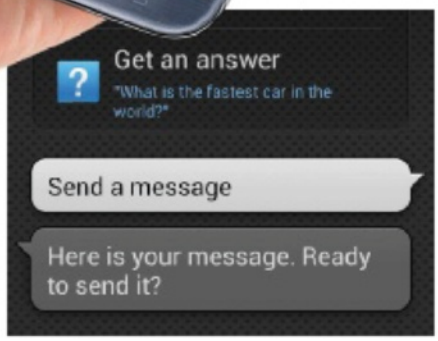
1: Give first instruction

Launch S Voice by tapping the icon in your app draw. Once opened give your first command by speaking directly into your device. Speak the command 'Send a message'. The phone will confirm your instruction and then will respond by asking who to send it to.



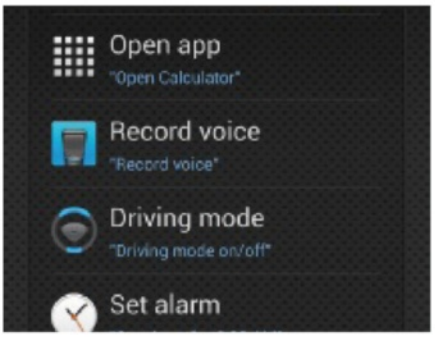
2: Name your contact

Say the name of the desired contact loud and clear into your device. If you have more than one contact under that name then you'll be given the option to pick one. Do this by tapping one of the options that the device gives you.



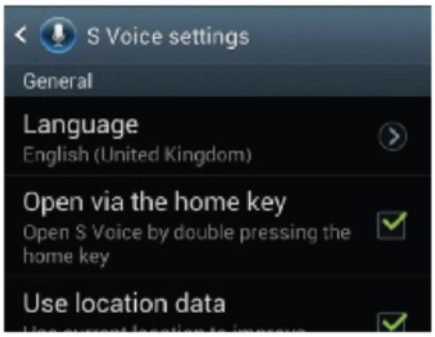
3: Speak your message

Read out your message to your device. The message will be read back to you and you will be able to check the text too. If you're happy with the recipient and the text then tap the send button or say 'send'. You'll receive confirmation that the message is sent.



4: Learn the commands

For help with commands while you're using S Voice, tap the small question mark icon to the right of the microphone icon. Here you'll see all the commands you can use to use S Voice to perform functions from searching for contacts to adding an event to your schedule.



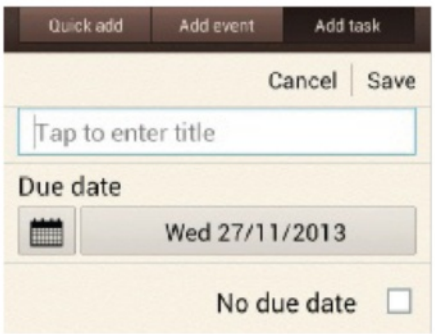
5: Check your settings

Tap the menu button on your device to view the S Voice settings options. Here you can change the language of the application as well as specify settings such as hiding potentially offensive words with asterisks when used in texts and memos.

Create a task list

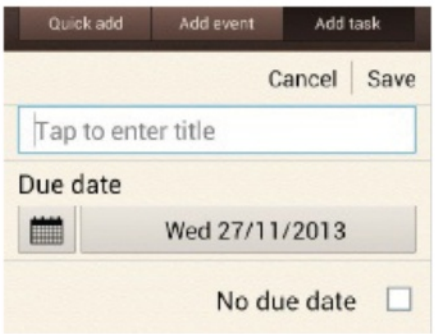
Use the S Planner app to ensure you stay on top of tasks by compiling a to-do list

A well managed task list is the mark of a well organised person and with S Planner you can whip yours into perfect shape. Tasks and events are the two basic entries you can make into the planner. In the Month View you will see events marked in the colour that corresponds to the calendar that they come from so you can easily identify what they're about. The tasks, on the other hand, are shown with a small tick box next to them. Tasks that are complete are shown with a small green tick next to them and a strike through the title of the task. You can either view the tasks you have to complete by entering the Task Tab as shown in the tutorial below or in a pop up menu by tapping the day that you want to view.



1: Add new task

Tap on a date in S Planner to open the Add New Task/Event popup. This is a quick way to add an event or a task. Tap the Add task option and check that it's being entered under My Task which is the S Planner's built in Task List.



2: Enter task details

Use the keyboard to enter the name of your task. If you want to add extra details such as notes, images and time then tap the Edit task details option. Because tasks are often brief, the planner gives you the option to skip details and save the task.

3: View daily tasks

Tap the arrow in the upper right hand corner to navigate to the task tab. Here you'll see all the tasks you have to complete on a particular day. Tap a task to view or edit details. If you've completed a task tap the box next to it to tick it off your list.

Draw a new note

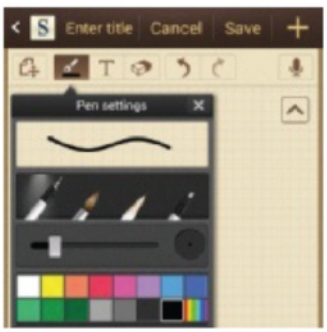
Think out loud with creative sketch options

1: Launch S Memo

The app comes with built in examples of folders and documents to give you some inspiration for what you can create yourself using the tools that are on offer.

2: Add new

Tap the plus and pen icon in the upper right hand screen. This will open a blank drawing memo for you to begin work on, complete with a tool bar at the top of the screen.



3: Use the tools

Use the tools at the top of the screen to switch between writing with the S Pen and sketching out your ideas. You can import pictures by tapping the add multimedia icon.

4: Add clipart

Add clipart pictures to your note by tapping the multimedia icon again and this time choosing clipart. Search through a wide range of images to make your note really stand out.

Social networking

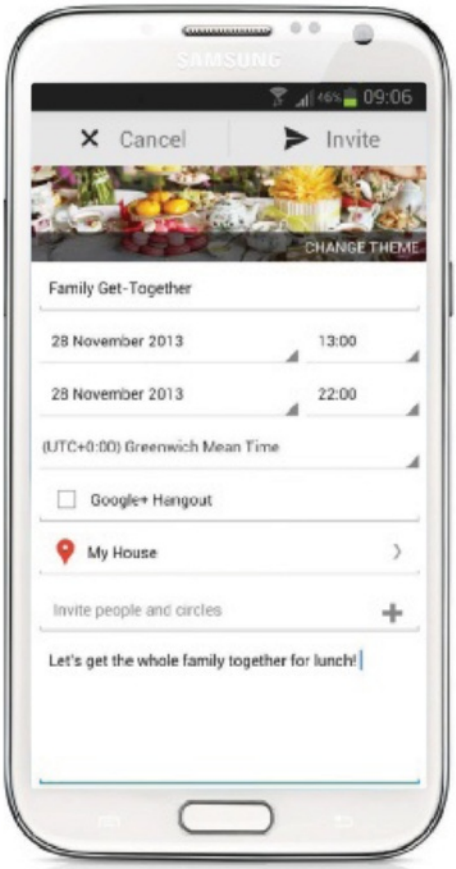
Your social hub for meeting, talking, sharing and browsing

In the age of social networking, owning a Galaxy smartphone or tablet drops you right in the heart of the hubbub. As well as being a useful tool for day-to-day tasks, an Android device can keep you bang up to date with everything that's going on in your social life.

There's an app to use for just about anything. If photography is your passion, then Instagram has you covered. With a huge range of filters to be splashed over your images and video clips and a worldwide population of users you can get your snaps out there and never run out of inspiration for more. If you're more of a social type, Facebook will keep you up to speed with the goings-on of all your friends and family. Or if you prefer the use Google+ to keep in touch there are infinite possibilities for maximising your social potential. For example, are you having a party? Create a Google+ event to spread the word and invite all the right people with just one click. We will show you how to do this on these pages, so read on!

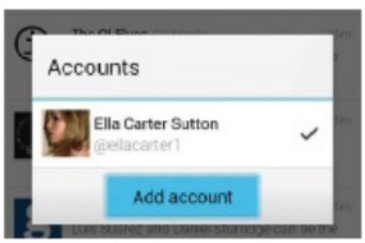
If you don't fancy telling the world what you're up to, you can have real-time private conversations with up to ten friends using Google's Hangouts app. Text and video chat to catch up on the gossip and add photos and emoticons to liven up the powwow. If you're new to Hangouts, never fear – you can learn everything you need to know here.

Many people use YouTube as a way to catch up on videos of dogs in costumes, but did you know there is a social side to the video network? You can rate and review video clips to your heart's content, and let other users know what you think. And if you're the social-savvy type to tweet about the YouTube videos that you've rated, we will also show you how you can manage multiple accounts using your Twitter app. It might be that you have a separate business account that you use, you share your Samsung device with others or maybe you are tweeting under your superhero alias to avoid detection – either way, using multiple Twitter accounts from just the one app is a great feature and best of all it's easy to set up.



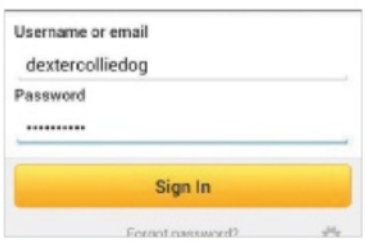
> "A Samsung device can keep you bang up to date with everything that's going on"

Use multiple Twitter accounts | Tweet using different accounts from one app



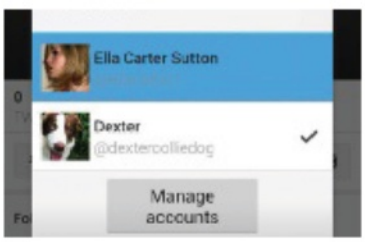
Sign in

Open up your Twitter app and sign in with one account. Then tap on your Samsung device's Options button. This will call up two choices: Accounts and Settings. Tap on Accounts, then hit Add account.



Enter account details

Now you need to enter the username and password of the extra twitter account that you want to manage alongside your existing one. This could be a business account, for example. The tap Sign In.



Tweet away

You'll be logged in to your second Twitter account right away, so you can use it as normal. To switch between accounts, simply hit your Menu button, tap accounts and then tap the one you want to use.

I can't find Facebook and Twitter on my device?

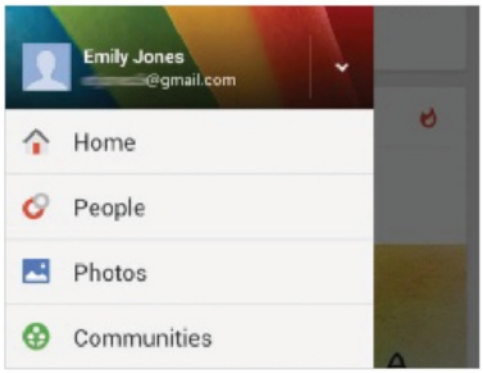
While Google+ and Hangouts come with most new Samsung devices, Facebook and Twitter may not. You can download their apps for free from Google Play.

Create Events on Google+

A great way to invite your friends and get together

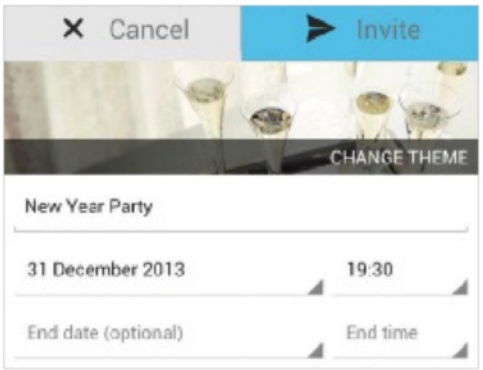
Google+ is an ideal way to keep in touch with your friends and family. If you're planning a party or a get-together, why not harness the social potential of Google+ to invite your guests? Creating an event is easy as pie, and the best bit is that you can choose a theme for your event and then Google+'s Circles makes inviting all the right people as simple as possible. You can manage your own events plus the ones you have been invited to, and it only takes a minute to get up and running.

Make your invite | Ensure that everyone knows where the party is



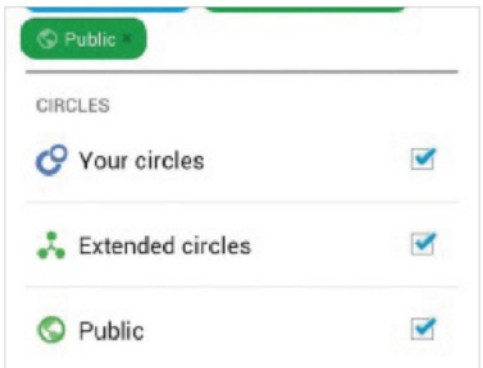
1: Log in

Open up the Google+ app on your Galaxy. Ensure that you're signed in with your Google log-in details and then tap on the red G+ icon in the top-left corner. This will call up the menu. Scroll down and then tap on the option labelled Events.



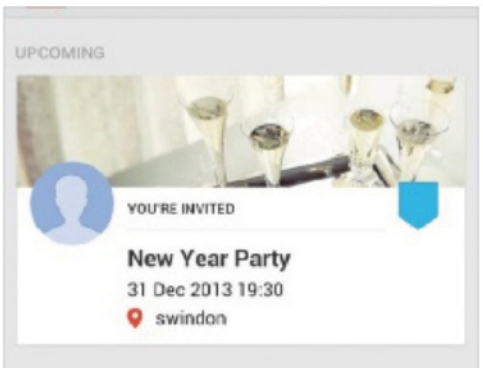
2: Create the event

If your Events page is empty, tap Create an event or hit the calendar-style symbol in the top bar. Enter all the info your guests will need such as the description, location and start and end times. Tap Change Theme to choose an attractive image for your invite.



3: Invite friends

Hit the Invite people and circles option to create the guest list for your event. To invite whole circles, tap to put a tick in the checkbox. You can even select to make your event public. Alternatively you can add individuals by searching for them using the magnifying glass icon.



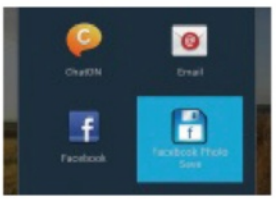
4: Sent it out

Once you've finished adding in all of the essential information, tap on Invite at the top of the page. Google+ will then send your invite out to everyone you selected and notify them that they have received an invitation. It will also appear on your own Events page.

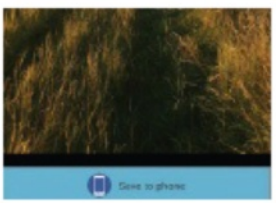
Save a Facebook photo

Save images from Facebook to your smartphone

Head to the Google Play store and type Facebook Photo Save in the search box. Then one you have found the app, tap install. Wait for this to install, then open up the Facebook app.



Once you see an image that you would like to save, hit your Samsung device's Options button. Tap on Share, and then from your sharing options, tap on the Facebook Photo Save option.



All you need to do is tap the Save to Phone option at the bottom of the image preview. The image will then be saved in the Facebook Photo Save folder in your gallery app for you to enjoy.

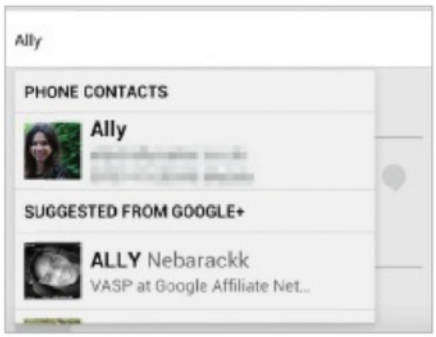
Keep in touch with Google Hangouts

A great conversation is just a few taps away

Google Hangouts replaces Google's old Talk app on Android devices, and in essence it is simply an extension of Gmail's instant messenger function. You can type messages in real time and chat back and forth with just one, or a whole group of your friends, send photos and use fun emoticons. You can also video chat, but this isn't limited to two people. You can add up to ten others to your Hangout which makes this an amazing way to keep in touch with your loved ones. Even if your mum and dad are in Australia, your sister is in Finland and your Aunt lives in Brazil you can all be together at once and chat using Hangouts. Hangouts works across Android and Apple devices and on any desktop computer, so there's no excuse to get involved! Hangouts makes use of your Google+ circles so you can start a circle-wide conversation too, an excellent way to stay in touch with whole circles of friends in one go. All of your conversations at automatically saved too, so you can return to each hangout and carry on the fun whenever you like.

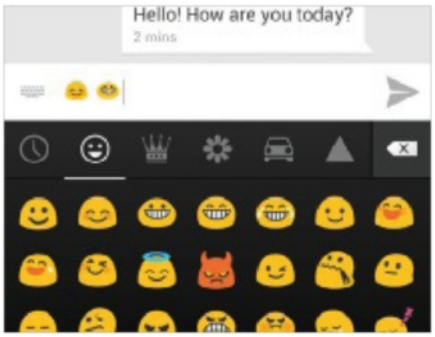
SAMSUNG
Emily
Hi Ella! I am really well thanks! How about you?
Great thanks! We just got home from a holiday by the sea
Lovely! Send me a photo?
Beautiful!
Send a message

Talk with friends | An easy way to talk face-to-face



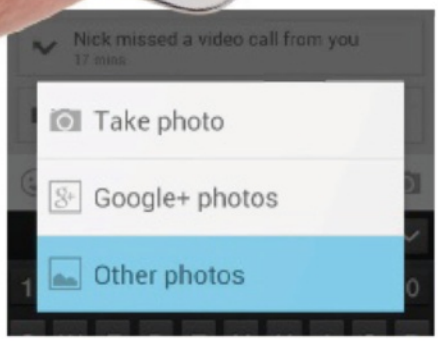
1: Start chatting

The Hangouts app looks like a green speech bubble with quotation marks. Sign in with your Google account then tap the '+' icon in the top-right corner to start a new Hangout. Type the name of the friend you want to talk to, or scroll down the list to find them.



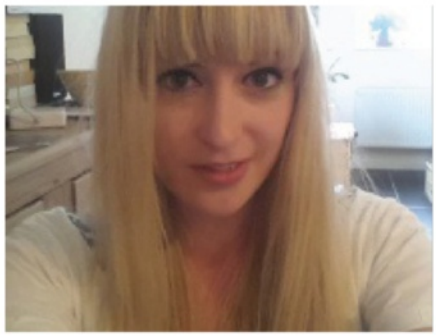
2: Using emoticons

Google has created some fun little characters to add to your conversations and send to your friends and family. To add them, when you're typing a message tap on the smiley-face icon next to the text box, then simply browse through and tap on the ones you like.



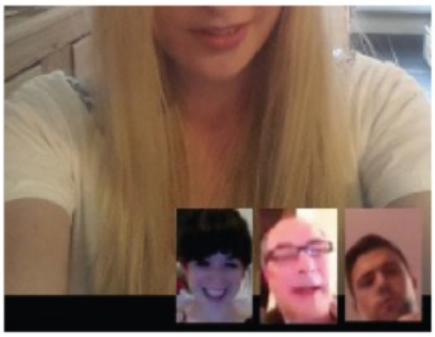
3: Send a photo

Showing off snaps within Hangouts is easy. Before you being typing a message to your friends, look to the right of the text box and you'll see a small camera icon. Tap this and then select the location of your photo. Tap an image to select, then simply hit send.



4: Video chat

To chat with someone face-to-face, all you need to do is tap the little camcorder icon that sits in the top-right corner of your Hangout. This will kick-start call your Hangout buddy and they will have to accept the video call. Once they do you can both chat away.



5: Invite more people

Group video Hangouts are great. To add more people to an existing call, simply tap on the icon in the top-right of your video call that looks like a person with a '+' sign. Then select friends, tap Add people and they will be added right away.

Instagram video clips

Now you can post film clips on this popular social network

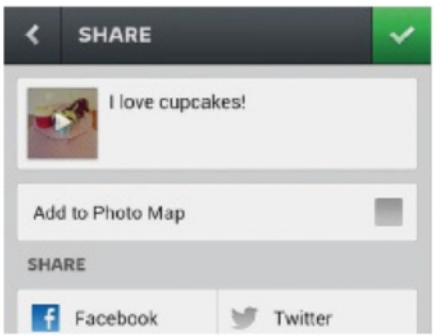
Instagram is enjoyed by billions of people all over the globe as a means of snapping, editing and sharing vintage-inspired imagery with the whole world. The quirky filters create uber-trendy photos, inspired by classic camera styles from the good old days. A recent update to the app is the addition of video clips as an extra way to share your story. You can record a 15-second clip in-app or you can give an already-saved video the Instagram treatment. The filters are still a prominent feature to give your videos that classic vintage-style look and the interface is streamlined and amazingly simple to use. There are no fiddly edits to make, which leaves you free to get creative and let loose with power of film.

1: Get filming

Open Instagram and hit the centre camera button. Select the camcorder icon for video mode. Line up your shot and hold down the red button to record. If you release, recording will pause. Press and hold to start again. Record until the progress bar hits the end.

2: Filter your clip

Once you're done filming, tap the green arrow in the top-right corner. You can then add a filter from the selection at the bottom. Tap the green arrow once again and then you'll need to select a Cover frame. Drag the slider along to choose a still from your video.

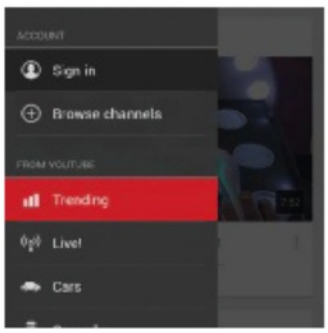


3: Caption and share

Tap the green arrow again and then you can add a caption to your clip. Type in some words to tell your followers what it's all about. You can also share it on other social networks too, simply tap the icon and link your accounts if you haven't already.

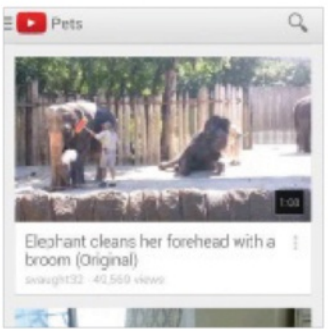
Rate YouTube videos

Give your opinions by leaving your comments



1: Log in

Open up YouTube and tap the top-left corner. Hit Sign In and then log in with your Google account details. Once you're logged in, tap on the magnifying glass icon to search for a video.

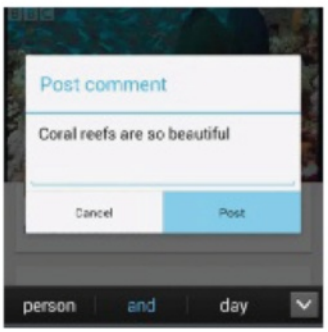


2: Browse videos

If you're not looking for anything specific, tap the top left again and scroll down to browse the video categories. Tap on one to see the most popular videos that come under these headings.

3: Give a thumbs-up

Rate the video to tell other users what you think. Beneath the video's title you'll see the symbols for thumbs up and thumbs down. Tap on the relevant one to show your appreciation or dislike.



4: Post a comment

To say what you think of the clip, tap the 'Post a comment' box. A dialog box will appear with info; click on OK and begin typing. Tap Post when done and you'll see your words beneath the video.

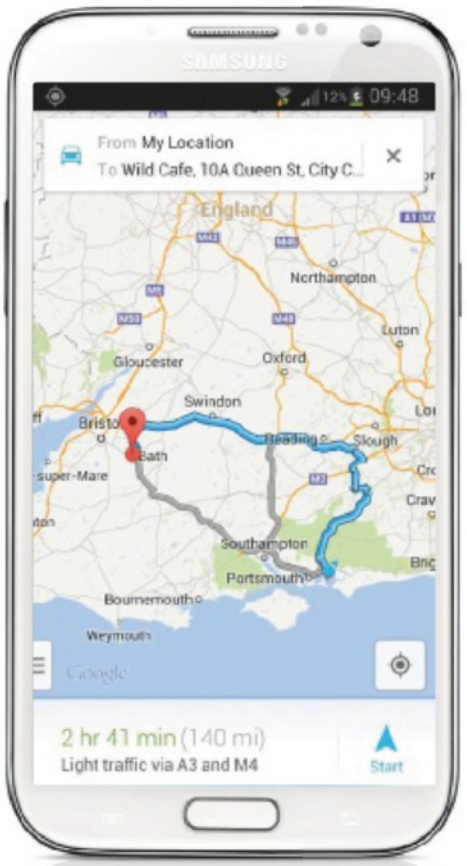
Travel and navigation

Let your Galaxy guide you in the right direction

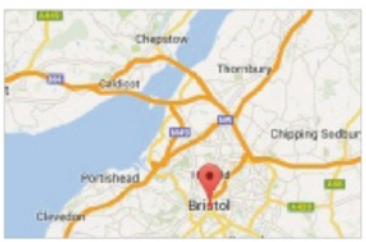
The social benefits of smartphones and tablets are highly rated, but another major bonus of owning one of these little gadgets is the location and travel features. You'll never get lost again as long as you have your Samsung device with you, because as long as you have mobile reception and battery juice, Google Maps will always be there to point out your location with a little blue dot. You can ask your phone or tablet to find your way to a desired destination, show you how to get there and how long it takes or even choose a route from different options. You can also ask to be shown the coffee shops, hairdressers or petrol stations along the way, and then perhaps peruse the reviews to make sure you pick the best establishment for a decent cappuccino. When you know where you want to go, you can check their opening hours, visit their website to view the menu and then call them straight away to reserve a table. The possibilities are endless.

Even if you can't physically travel in person, you can go there virtually from the comfort of your bedroom. Google Earth sits neatly in the palm of your hand and can take you wherever you fancy, with plenty of legroom and no scary turbulence and dodgy airline dinners. You're only a few taps away from the statues of Easter Island, or the stunning landscapes of the Arctic Circle. You could go there right now and be back in time for tea.

However, if the horizon is calling you and virtual travel isn't nearly enough, be sure to take your Samsung device with you when you go, as it can really help you out if you're travelling the world. Google Translate can be your best friend if you don't speak the native language, helping you to get about on your travels, order food, find you a bed for the night and chat with the locals, along with thousands of other uses. Then, when you touch down on home soil, you can use it once again to keep in contact with all the people you met while you were away.

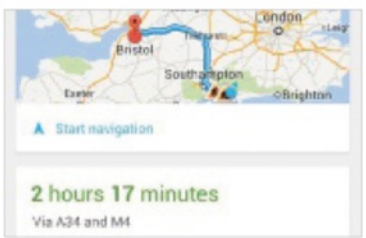


Find your way with Maps | Let Google Maps plan your journey



Enter your destination

Launch the app and tap the search bar at the top to type in where you want to go. This can be a place, a postcode or an address. Hit the search button and Maps will show you your destination on the map.



Select your route

At the bottom of the interface a blue car icon estimates how long it takes to get there. Tap this for more travelling options. Select start and end points for your journey plus your method of transport from a few route options.

Away you go

Tap the route you want to take. You can follow on the map, or tap and drag the bottom bar upwards for a list of directions. For the best-possible helping hand, tap the blue Start icon to enable the sat-nav function.

How do I use the Maps sat-nav function?

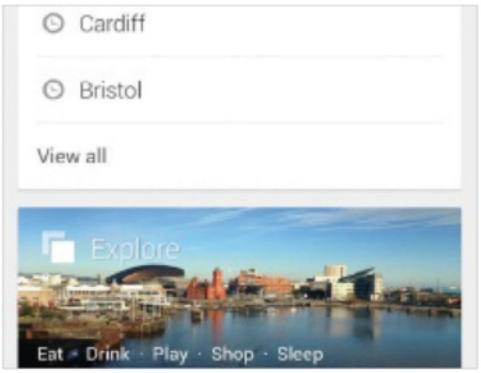
This talks you through each step of your journey and displays a real-time view of your progress. Place your smartphone and enable Flight mode so you won't be distracted by calls or texts.

Google Maps Explore

Enhance your Maps experience with this new feature

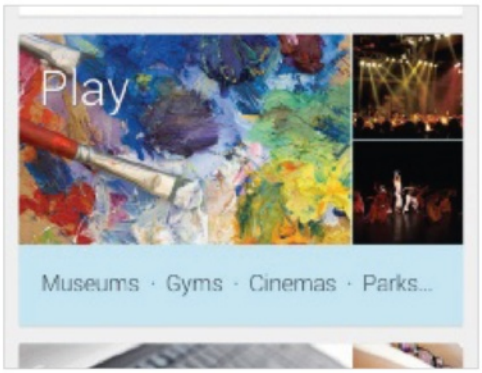
The most recent update to Google Maps sees the introduction of the Explore function which helps you to really get the feel of an area and make the most of your time there. With Explore you can check out hundreds of places such as restaurants, bars, shops, hotels and activities and get recommendations based on the type of thing you're after. There are plenty of categories to choose from, so whether you want to eat with the locals or check out popular tourist haunts, Explore is guaranteed to have something that's right up your street.

Time to Explore | Let Maps make the most of your trip



1: Find the function

First ensure that you have updated your app with the latest available upgrade. Then type your destination into the search function and beneath it you will see the Explore box showing a beautiful image of your location and a selection of handy options to choose from.



2: Pick a category

Depending on the type of thing you're looking to do in that particular location, tap on Eat, Drink, Play, Shop or Sleep. We have chosen Play so we can explore the types of activities and attractions available in Cardiff. This option covers everything from museums to parks and gyms.

Popular with tourists
St Fagans National History Museum
4.6 ★★★★★ 58 reviews
Collection of traditional buildings
111 mi · 10:00 - 17:00
Castell Coch
4.7 ★★★★★ 31 reviews

3: Pick a place

Once you've made your decision you'll then be shown recommendations of places based on their category, such as Popular with tourists. A few options are listed on the main screen, or if nothing grabs you straight away, tap on View All for the full list of attractions.

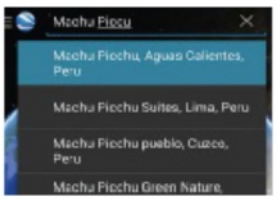
4: Plan your visit

If you see something that takes your fancy, tap on it to get extra information. You'll then be provided with all you need for your visit, such as directions on a map, a link to the website, opening times and other customer ratings and reviews. You can save or share the recommendation.

Landmarks in Google Earth

Zone in on amazing sites from the skies

Open up your Google Earth app and wait for it to calibrate. It will zoom in on your location, so if you just want to browse use pinch gestures to zoom out. Tap, drag and pinch to explore.


Machu Piccu
Machu Picchu, Aguas Calientes, Peru
Machu Picchu Suites, Lima, Peru
Machu Picchu pueblo, Cuzco, Peru
Machu Picchu Green Nature

Tap the magnifying glass icon to search somewhere you want to see. Type in the location and Earth will provide suggestions. Pick one or tap the magnifying glass to visit your destination.

You'll be there before you know it! The graphics are amazing – you can explore landmarks, zoom in and see what else is there. You can also use Earth's Layers to find out even more.

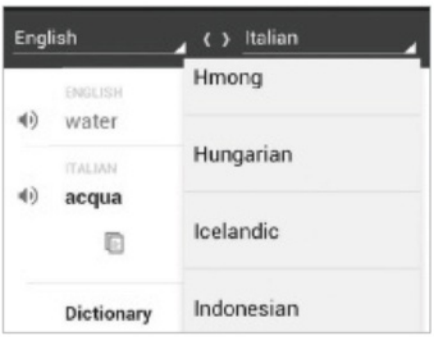
Chat using Google Translate

Master the language barrier with this awesome app

Don't speak Portuguese? With the power of Google Translate for Android at your fingertips, then that's 'não há problema'. Able to translate over 70 languages, the app lets you speak, write, photograph or type words to be translated into another language or your native tongue. You can save favourites to your phrase book, share your translation through messages, email, text apps and social media and you can even make the translation full-screen if you need to use it for face-to-face communication.

There is another amazing thing about Google's Translate app, and that's the Conversation feature. This lets you speak a back-and-forth conversation and translates the words almost instantly from one language to another, and back again if necessary. The conversation is recorded so you can hear who said what, and the app can also read the words back to you, in any language you choose. This is an invaluable app for travellers, now you can enjoy friendly conversation with the locals all the way around the world!

Translate a conversation | Chat like a local in any language

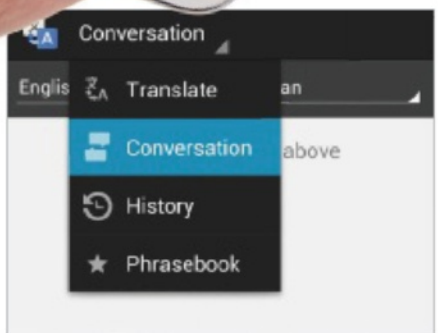


1: Get the app

If you don't already have the Google Translate app, head to the Google Play store and tap Translate into the search bar. Download and launch the app. Play with translating some words. Select which languages to translate to and from in the top drop-down menus.

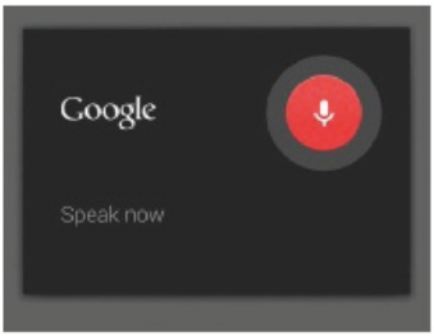
2: Translation features

As well as typing in words, use the icons at the bottom for other useful translation features. Tap the microphone icon to speak a phrase, the pen icon to write a phrase with your finger or stylus or use the camera icon to snap a word for translation.



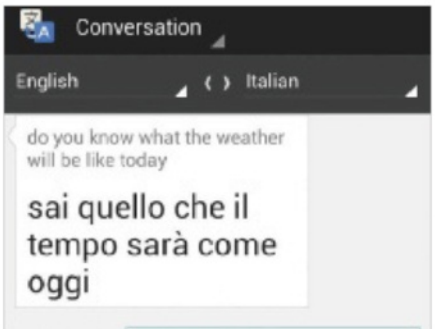
3: Begin a conversation

At the top of the interface, tap Translate. This shows you a drop-down box of options. Tap Conversation. Choose the languages that you want to use at the top, then at the bottom of the screen there will be two buttons with microphone icons, one for each language.



4: Start speaking

Tap on the English microphone tab and then speak into your device. If you would prefer to type, press your device's Back button, then tap in the box to type. For both methods, when you're done press the arrow next to the text box to translate.



5: Chat away

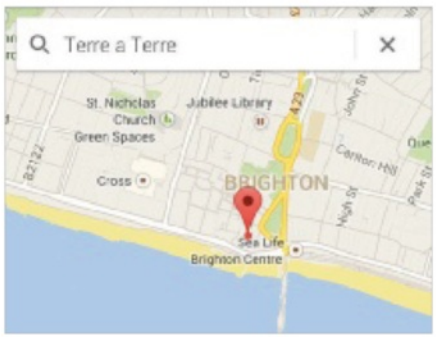
Your translation will appear on screen and will be read aloud. Hit the other language's microphone tab for your companion to speak into your device, and so on. Your conversation will appear with both translations on screen, so you can chat for as long as you like.

Rate and Review

Let others know what you think by leaving your opinion with Google Maps

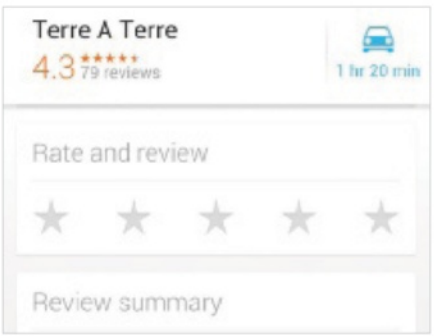
When exploring an area using Google Maps and looking for something to do or a place to eat, the best way to choose where to go is by recommendations of fellow travellers and diners. This information helps you to make an informed decision about where to spend your hard-earned cash.

If you've visited somewhere rather lovely recently, or conversely felt disappointed by a place, it's good to contribute to these reviews and let others know what to expect. Google Maps is the perfect place for this, as rating and reviewing places here is incredibly easy. The only thing you need (besides your Samsung device and Google Maps of course) is a Google+ profile set up. Once that's taken care of, here's how to rate and review a destination that you've visited.



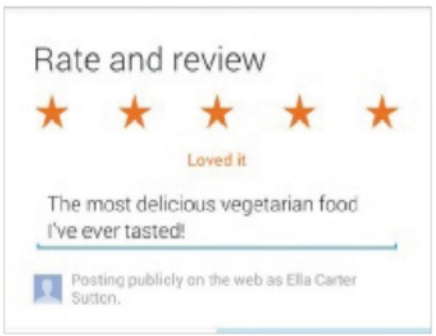
1: Look it up

Open up your Google Maps app and then type in the name of the place you want to review into the search function, then tap on the magnifying glass icon to locate it. Alternatively you could search for the places you've visited via the Explore function.



2: View the profile

Once Maps has located your place, tap and drag the bottom bar upwards for information about that place. You'll see the contact details, website, address and opening hours plus other people's reviews. To begin your own review, tap to place a star rating under the Rate and Review section.

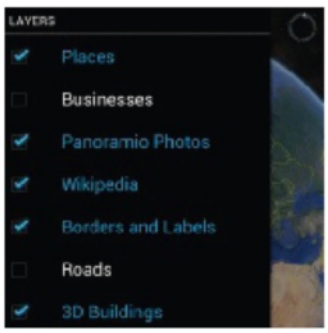

Rate and review
Loved it
The most delicious vegetarian food I've ever tasted!
Posting publicly on the web as Ella Carter Sutton.

3: Write your review

Give your chosen place a star rating out of five and type your review into the box to tell other Google Maps users why they should, or shouldn't, pay this place a visit. Once you're done writing your review, hit the Publish button to see it on the place's profile.

Google Earth's Layers function

Much more than just a digital globe



1: Select Layers

Open Google Earth and tap the small tab in the top left-hand corner. This opens up a list of options, and you can also view the Layers options, each with a checkbox to turn them on or off.

2: Wikipedia layer

If you're keen to know more about a place on Google Earth, turn on the Wikipedia layer. You'll see small 'W' symbols on the map which you can tap to view more interesting information.

3: Panoramio layer

Use this layer to see stunning panoramic images of areas that you visit on Google Earth. Tap on the little photo icons to view the images, or pull up the tab at the bottom for previews.

4: 3D buildings

This layer gives you an incredible view of landmarks and buildings using 3D graphics. The detail is amazing and you can zoom in close to feel as if things are jumping right out of your screen.

Performance

Expert tips to help remove the clutter on your phone or tablet

If you are starting to notice some significant slowdown on your device, it might be time to give it a thorough spring clean. With a wide selection of tool and utility-based apps on the Google Play store, you'll have no trouble sourcing apps aimed at making your device run that little bit quicker. However, a good way to improve the performance of your device is to manage the battery properly. To get you started with judicious battery usage, try out a few of the following tips:

Even when you exit an app, it doesn't necessarily mean the app has been properly closed. Without double checking, the app can run in the background on your device and drain battery levels without you knowing or getting use out of it.

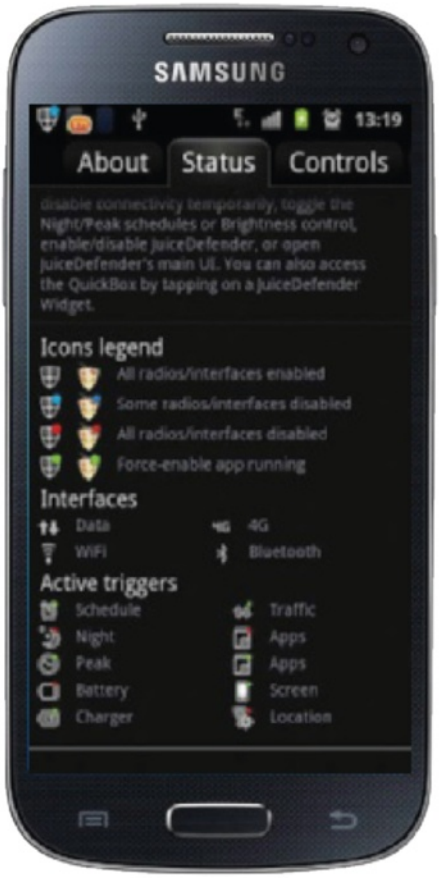
Many smartphones have replacement batteries you can purchase to help give you longer battery life. These batteries tend to be slightly larger than the originals, so they come with a new backplate for you to use with your device.

Apps like Facebook and Twitter are notoriously bad for draining battery life. These apps need to constantly sync to your device to keep themselves updated, but this can drain your battery life an awful lot quicker than normal. However, by far the biggest user of your device's battery life is the screen. Having it on a bright setting is a bad idea, so make sure you change it accordingly.

Bluetooth is another popular battery killer, so when not in use, make sure it's turned off. A great app to monitor usage is Power Toggles (free from the Play Store), which automatically disables it after you've finished using the service. In this masterclass, we have covered some of the fundamental things you should do to make sure your Samsung device is running at its optimum, and listed the apps you need to use to achieve this.

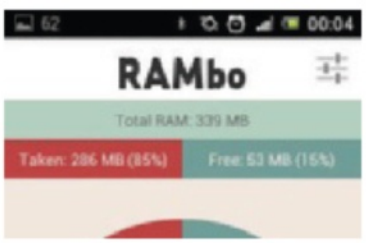
Outside of battery usage, there are several ways to improve performance. In our first tutorial we'll guide you through the process of wiping hidden cached files on your device, and identify the apps that use up the most data. Our next two tutorials will show you two different ways of streamlining the content that's stored on your Galaxy, with the second of these tutorials using the essential ES File Explorer management app.

And, if you need a way to optimise your device's RAM and take its power to new levels of awesome, then you'll definitely want to read our final step-by-step. In our other tutorial we'll guide you through the best apps for helping to give your battery life the ultimate spring clean.



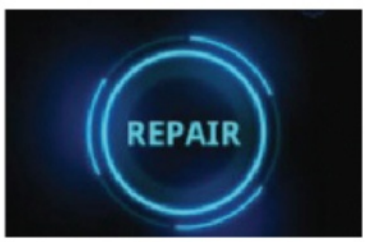
Essential tune-up apps

Use this software to keep your device feeling fresh



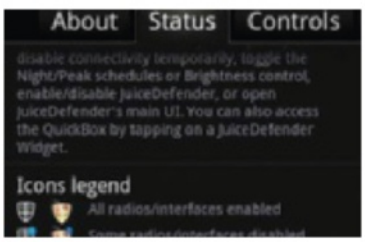
RAMbo - Memory Optimizer

Use RAMbo to free up some of your current memory usage and ultimately make your phone a whole lot faster. You'll be surprised with just how much of your memory is being used without you knowing.



Advanced Mobile Care

Despite the Advanced Mobile Care app having a wide range of different features to explore, its best use is to be a task killer that can help stop applications from draining your battery life.



JuiceDefender Ultimate

JuiceDefender Ultimate is the app to use if you're looking for ways to improve your device's battery life. The app scans your phone to where battery usage is at its highest and looks to minimise its impact for you.

Which apps can help me?

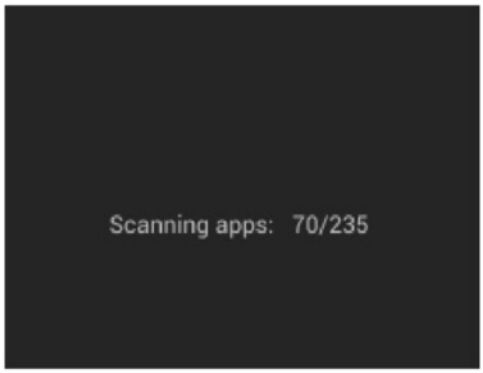
Unfortunately, tool and utility apps are commonplace for malicious apps to call home. The best advice we can give you is to make sure you read the user reviews and only download trusted, reliable apps from brands you recognise.

Clear the cache

Get more internal storage by removing app-created cached files

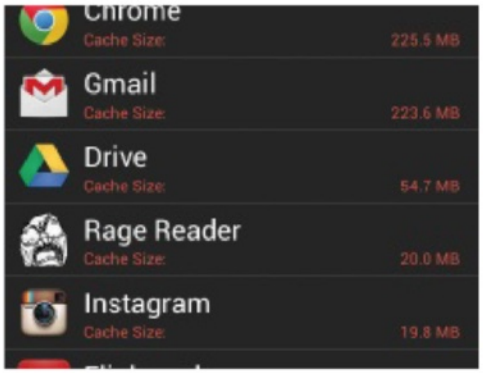
Whenever you download and use an app, small secondary files are also created alongside them packed full of data. These cached files may start off small in size, but can soon take up a considerable amount of your internal storage if left unmanaged, and subsequently slow down your Samsung device. Caches can contain anything – websites you've visited, Tweets you've read – all intended to speed up your phone, but sometimes having the opposite effect.

App Cache Cleaner | Free up some space



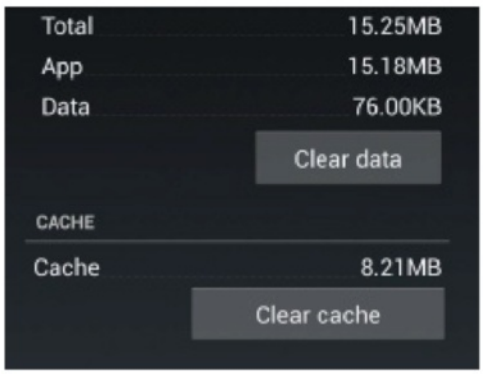
1: Analyse your apps

Download and install App Cache Cleaner from Google Play. When you open the app for the first time, it will perform a full scan of the apps installed on your device. Depending on how many apps you have stored on your device, this could take up to a few minutes to complete.



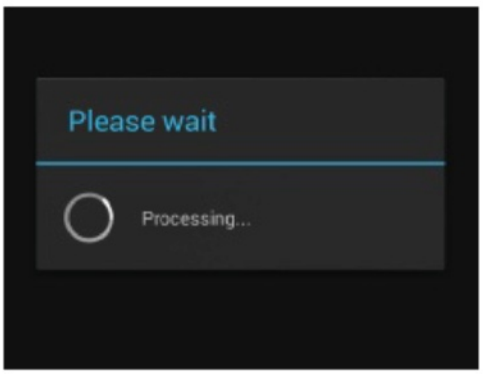
2: Check your cache

All your apps will now be listed with the biggest cache files shown at the top. Most of the default Google apps create large cache files, so expect to see them positioned at the top. At the top bar you'll also find a total cache number that displays what can be cleared.



3: Wipe individual cache

If you would prefer not to entirely wipe your cache, you can choose to remove them individually. Press on one of the apps listed and wait for the menu to calculate the total amount of cache that can be removed. Press the Clear button to remove it.



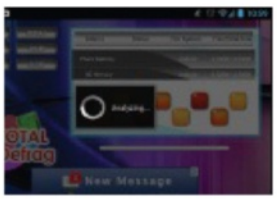
4: Scratch the lot

To remove your entire cache, simply press the Clear All button at the bottom of the app's listing page. Depending on how much it needs to delete, the wipe can take a few minutes to complete. You will receive a notification telling you how much was wiped.

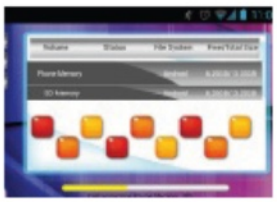
Speed up access to your files

Defragging will let you perform tasks a lot faster

Download and open the Mirocsoft Total Defrag app from the Google Play store (it's free). Once you've done that, press on the Defrag option listed at the top of the app.



The app will now analyse your device to pinpoint the files that can be permanently removed. This process can take a few minutes to complete, depending on the size of the phone.



A yellow bar will now appear, indicating the progress of the defragging process. Once completed, it'll show you how many temporary files were removed.

Find out what's using up space

Explore your SD card and find where your storage space is being used

One of the most useful apps you can download from the Google Play store is a file management app. Not only can these handy applications give you full access to your smartphone and SD card's files, they can also be great places to delete large, hidden files in just a few steps. One of the premier file manager apps currently available on Google Play is ES File Explorer File Manager, a one-stop shop for file management that also includes a wealth of interesting features for you to use.

The feature that you'll want to check out if you're keen to spring clean your device is the SD card scanner. Using this feature will let you see where your internal storage is being used, and which files in particular should be removed to clear up some space.

Once you've completed a scan, you will then be able to delete those hefty files from your device. In this tutorial, we'll take you through the process of scanning your SD card and identify the type of files you should remove immediately.

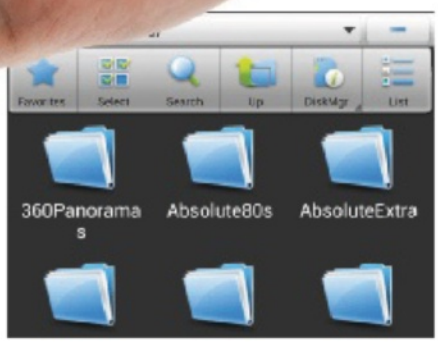
ES File Explorer | Search and destroy your unwanted data

1: Open the app

Open ES File Explorer and follow the built-in tutorial to help get you started. Along the top of the app are a series of controls that house different features. For the purpose of this tutorial, long press on the fifth icon across titled TaskMgr.

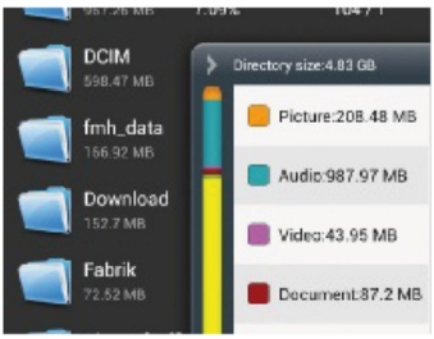
2: SD Card Analyst mode

There are a wide range of features you can take advantage of in this menu, including a Security Manager, Task Manager and App Manager option. We want to select the SD Card Analyst mode located near the bottom of the menu.



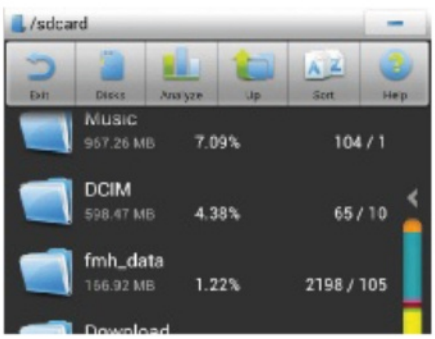
3: Perform a scan

You'll now be taken to an identical screen as before, but you will now see DiskMgr listed at the top of the app. Press on DiskMgr to commence a scan of your SD card. Typically, the scan will take around three minutes to complete.



4: Check your storage

After the scan has finished you will be able to see a variety of things. At the bottom of the screen is a general overview of your storage, and by swiping left you can see a widget that displays file types and the storage they take up.



5: Delete hefty folders

Thanks to the scan you will be able to see which files are taking up the most room. Scroll through your folders and find a large file you want to remove. Long press on the specified folder and choose the Delete option to finalise it.

Disable battery killing features

Give your battery life a detox with Battery Booster

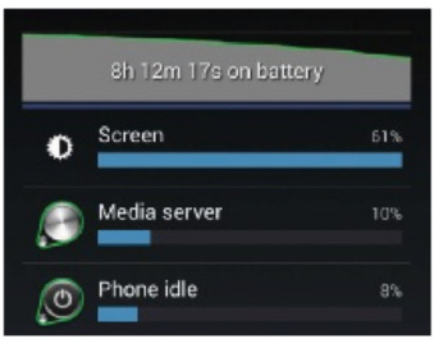
It isn't just your internal storage that can be affected if you don't give your device the occasional spring clean. Many apps include features that dramatically lower your battery life, and without paying attention to it, your device's charge will soon run out.

The most reliable way of making sure your battery life is in tip-top shape is by downloading the Battery Booster app from the Play Store. This app works in the background of your device and disables some of the most common ways in which battery life is drained. For example, the app will disable Bluetooth and Wi-Fi when you aren't using it, and disable the pesky auto-sync option in Facebook, which is a true battery life killer.

Battery Booster
Press the button above to boost your battery life by 15-25%! This app will run in the background and automatically disable

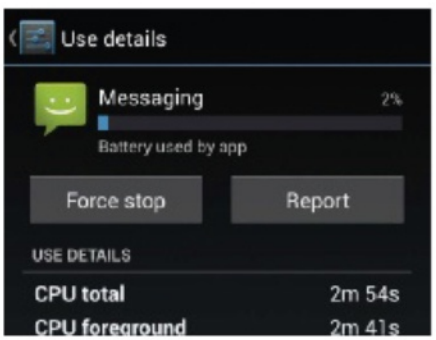
1: Running in the background

After downloading the app from the Play store, open it up and read the instructions provided. The app will explain how it works, and how much battery life you can save while using its features. Once read, press on the See Battery Usage Stats button.



2: Why the drain?

The application will now take you to a rundown of all the elements that are draining your battery. As you scroll through the list you might be surprised with how much spring cleaning you need to do. Press on one of the options that consumes a lot of battery.

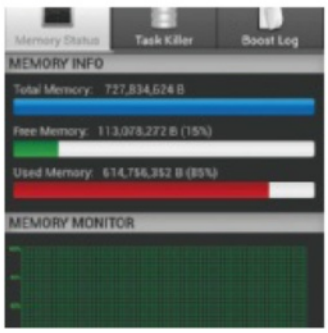


3: Start to disable features

You'll now see an even more detailed breakdown of how much battery life that particular feature or app drains. You can choose to permanently disable the feature, force stop it or you can edit the feature's settings to tone back on its battery usage.

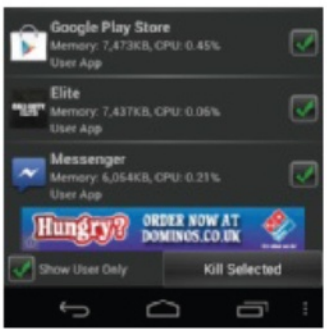
Optimise your device's memory

Get your device back up to speed by giving the RAM a thorough tune-up

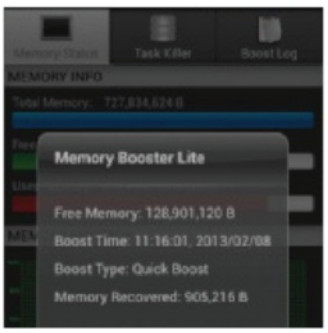


Download and open the Memory Booster - RAM Optimizer app. Once opened you'll be able to see an all-encompassing breakdown of your current memory usage, and the amount of memory that's available to you.

Select the Task Killer option from the toolbar at the top to see a breakdown of each app and service on your device, and the memory they're using. Typically, social networking apps will be using most of your memory.



Select the Show User Only option in the bottom-right to see just the apps you have installed on your device. Select the apps you want to stop for the time being and press the Kill Selected Apps button to free up some memory.



Go to the home page and select the Quick Boost option at the bottom. This will search your phone for memory it can instantly free up for you to use. After it's finished it'll display a breakdown on the memory it freed for you.

Battery

Squeeze even more juice out of your Samsung's battery

You've missed the last train home and just as you're making the phone call to book a taxi your phone runs out of power, leaving you with a long, probably wet, walk home. Well, this tutorial is going to try and help you make sure that things like that never happen again. There are a few simple tricks that let you elongate the battery life of any Android device, and a couple of apps you should get installed as soon as possible to make sure your Galaxy has enough juice to last more than a day:

Many phones and tablets have their own built-in power saving mode, so make sure you activate this. Remember that your screen is the biggest drain on the battery – it's not really a surprise, considering how big some modern smartphones are – so knock down the brightness and you'll find that your battery lasts noticeably longer.

It's a good idea to try to let the battery drop to around 40 per cent before you charge it, there's no need to keep it at 100 per cent. If you find that one of your apps is using a lot of energy, why not look for an alternative? There are thousands of apps on the Play Store and you should be able to find a suitable replacement no matter what app you're using.

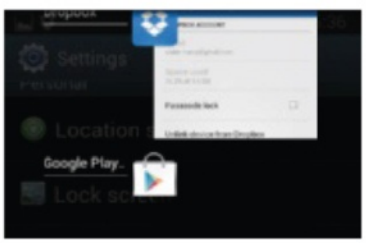
Finally, if you're using a device as a tether to connect your laptop to the internet on the go, take a connecting wire with you so you can charge your phone from your laptop.

In this series of small tutorials we will walk you through a few tasks that will kill apps and services when you're not using them. We'll show you how to find which apps are sucking up the most power and we'll tell you how to make sure your apps aren't using up energy when you don't need them to.

There's nothing challenging on show here, just some common sense tips to save your power. Of course, we're not going to work miracles, and some devices have markedly worse battery life than others, but these tips will make sure you're getting the best battery life from your device.

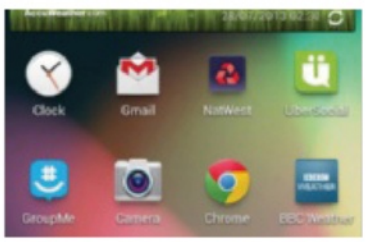
> "Many devices have built-in power saving modes, so make sure you activate them"

Save by being smart | Get the most out of your phone's power



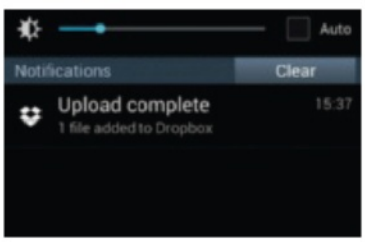
Close those apps

Use your task manager to close apps that are running in the background. They might be quiet, but they're going to be using some of your precious power, so knock them out now and get yourself a few more minutes.



Don't use your screen

If your battery is running out of juice, don't turn the screen on unless you have to. No matter how low you've got the brightness settings set to, it takes a decent amount of power just to turn the screen on.



Turn off your vibration

If your phone vibrates every time it gets a message, turn it off when your battery is struggling to survive. You might miss a text, but your phone is going to last that bit longer as well, which is ultimately what we're after.

What's the best way to keep a battery healthy?

Don't let the battery become fully depleted; try to keep it topped up regularly. The capacity of a battery will shorten over time, so consider buying a spare if you're a heavy user.

Save battery power

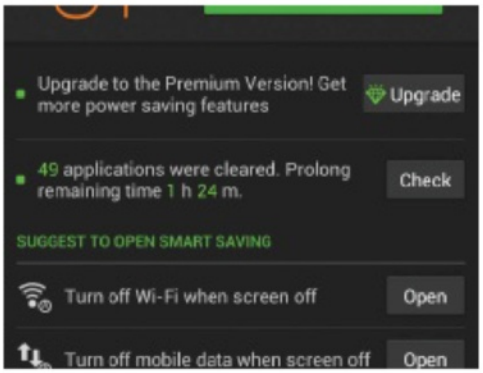
A handy app that lets you take control of your power usage

Go Power Master is a brilliant and simple-to-use app that gives you a score based on how well your phone is using its energy. You can tweak a lot of settings straight from the app, including the brightness of your screen and which connections you have running, as well as creating your own custom profiles to make your own battery saving routine. There are a lot of tweaks and changes you can make with Go Power Master, so here we'll walk you through getting the app set up and running.

Go Power Master | Get more from your battery life

1: Get the app set up

Once you've downloaded the app, run it. You'll notice a battery level indicator appears in your notifications bar and that the app gives you a score. If the score is green you're doing fine, if it's not, you'll need to do some work.

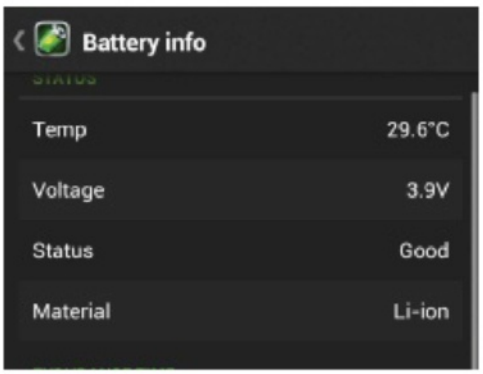

Upgrade to the Premium Version! Get more power saving features
Upgrade
49 applications were cleared. Prolong remaining time 1 h 24 m.
Check
SUGGEST TO OPEN SMART SAVING
Turn off Wi-Fi when screen off
Open
Turn off mobile data when screen off
Open

2: Run your first check

Tap on the button that says Optimize Now. This might take a few seconds, but it's running a check to see what apps and connections you have running, and to see the quality of your battery. Your score should go up a little afterwards.

3: Go a little deeper

Underneath the new power-saving score you'll see a series of suggestions for making things smoother. Some you will want to keep running, others are pretty smart, like turning off Wi-fi when your device's screen is off. Tick the boxes to see your score go up.

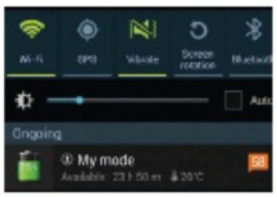


4: Still a problem?

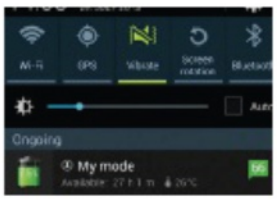
If you're still having a problem with battery life, then you might find that there's something wrong with your battery rather than your device. Head to the Tool tab and tap on Battery Info. This will give you a breakdown of your battery and tell you if it needs replacing.

Disable 3G or Wi-fi quickly

How to turn off the network connections



This quick tip could mean the difference between a dead phone and one with enough juice to call in an emergency. Get to the quick settings; usually in your notifications bar.



To turn off your Wi-fi connection, just tap the Wi-fi icon in the top-left. This will turn it off. You can turn it back on in the same way. Swipe across to the Mobile data button.

Mobile data
You will no longer be able to use applications such as Internet, Email and YouTube via mobile networks. Continue?
Do not show again
Cancel
OK

Tap the button and you'll see this pop-up box appear. Tap OK to agree and you'll have no internet connections using up your precious battery life until you turn them back on again.

Shut down power-draining features

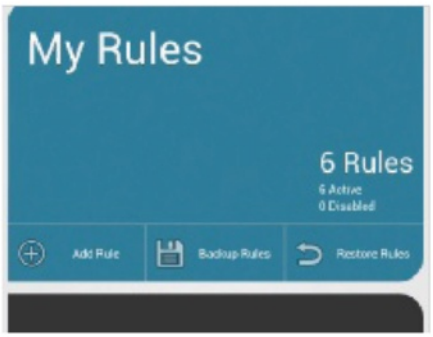
Turn off battery draining apps and features when you're not using them

AutomateIt is a hugely powerful app that lets you set a number of different rules that automatically kick in when their criteria are fulfilled. You can use this to your advantage in the quest for longer battery life. In this tutorial we'll walk you through setting up an easy battery-saving rule, and explain how you can apply the same lesson to create your own, far more powerful rules as well. The best thing about AutomateIt is once you've set up a rule, you don't have to worry about it any more.

As long as the app is running then once the rule should come into play, it will. The simple user interface means that you are never going to be confused about what to do when you're setting your rules and, if you don't want to create your own, there's even a marketplace that lets you download rules that other people have created.

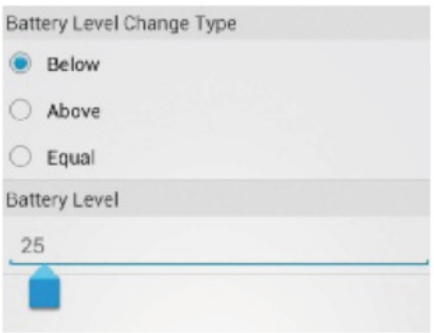
Your first step should be downloading the app for free from the Google Play store. Once that's done, it's time to lay down some rules for the first time.

AutomateIt | Create a power-saving rule



1: Start setting rules

From the front page of the app you'll want to tap on the small Add Rule button. This will let you set up your own rule. First, though, make sure you check through the ones that AutomateIt has set automatically and delete any you don't want.

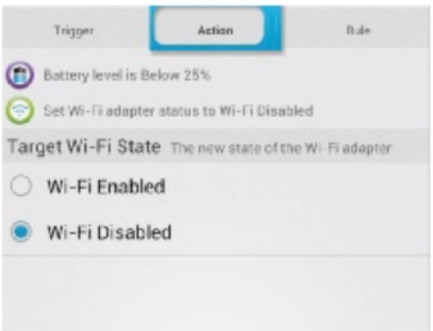


2: Choose a trigger

For the purpose of this tutorial, pick a Battery Level Trigger. As you can see there are lots of other choices to pick from. You'll need the pro version to set composite and/or choices though. Next you'll have to set the level trigger.

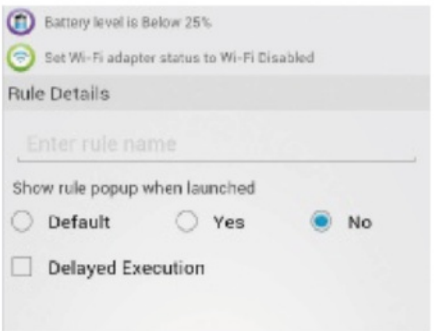
3: Set the charge level

Set the trigger for around 25 per cent. We reckon this is when the battery is getting low enough to start to get worried about it. When you're happy with your setting, click on the Next button on the bottom-right of the screen to move on.



4: Set your action

Now you get to set the action that occurs when your phone battery dips below 25 per cent. We've gone for switching off the Wi-fi. Again, you'll need to buy the pro version of the app if you want to use really useful multiple actions.



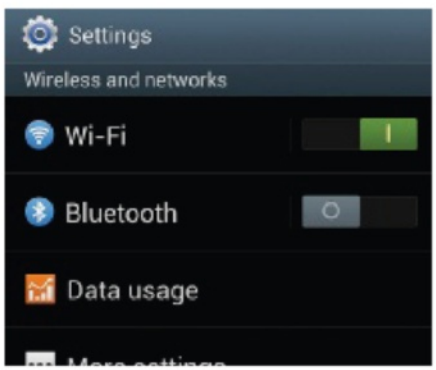
5: Save your rule

Once you're done, save your new rule and choose whether you want a pop up to let you know when it activates. Creating new rules is as simple as that. Now it's up to you to play around with AutomateIt and find clever ways to save energy.

Background syncing

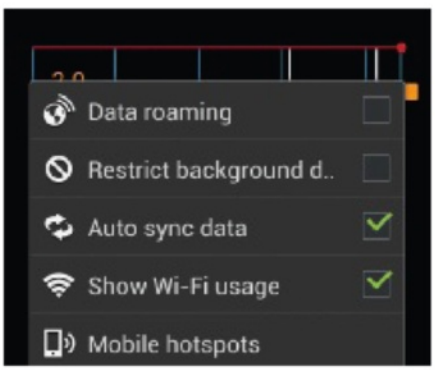
Stop your apps from downloading data and using up battery life in the background

Sometimes apps running in the background will try to download data. That's fine when you've got a healthy full battery, but if you're trying to save some energy it can be pretty annoying. If you don't want to be quite so drastic as turning off your connections entirely, you can instead simply stop apps from trying. This is a pretty simple operation – just bear in mind that some apps don't really work correctly if you've turned off background data, so you won't be getting the same Galaxy experience you would normally be getting. However, it can save you a decent chunk of battery life, so it's definitely worth considering if you're trying to eke every second you can out of a single charge.



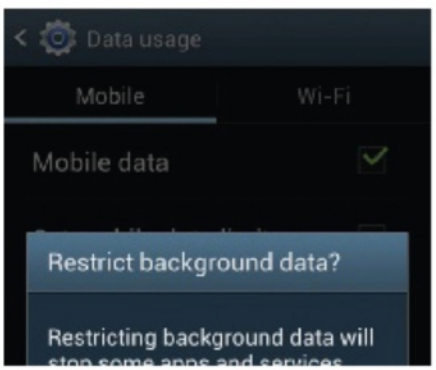
1: Open the menu

Head into the Settings application and navigate to Data usage. This shows you how much data you've been using and which apps are using it. Once in there you'll want to bring up the menu.



2: Find the check box

Find the Background data checkbox. There's also one that says Auto sync data. You're going to want to turn both of these options off to stop background syncing. Do that by tapping on them once.



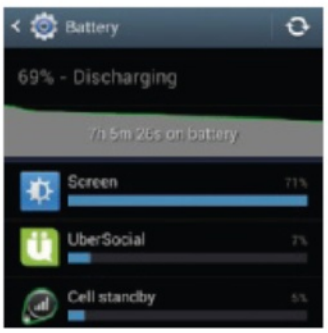
3: Double check

You'll be greeted by some pop-ups. Tap to agree and your phone will no longer use data in the background. It's not a perfect solution, but it will save you some battery life if you're running low.

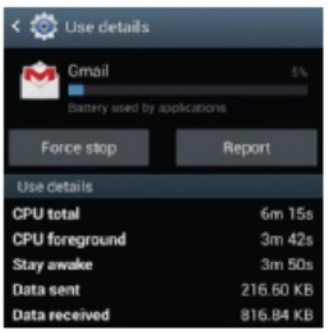
Discover battery-draining apps

Find out which apps are using your battery even when you're not using them

Once again you'll want to open the Settings menu. This time scroll down to the Battery option and tap on that. This will take you to a screen showing you a graph of your usage since the last time you charged your device.



The screen is going to be at the top of the list, because that uses most of your battery levels. Look below it and you'll find the apps that are using the most of your power though. Tap on one of them for a closer look.



This detailed breakdown shows how much power the app has been using and how. If you want you can now force close the app from here, meaning it won't be using any more power until the next time you open it up again.

Go back to the main page and tap on the graph itself. You'll see a more precise breakdown of the energy usage of your device. Thanks to our tips, it should look healthier than it did at the start of the masterclass.

Tricks

Use your Galaxy to its full potential with these top tricks

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Make adjustments to your gallery

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Track stars and learn new facts

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Tailor the news that you see

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94 Find the food you love
Order in or rate and review food

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Get help tracking your diet

98 Revise for your upcoming exams
Make revising easier with these apps

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Know where you're going before you go

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Find a new home with these apps

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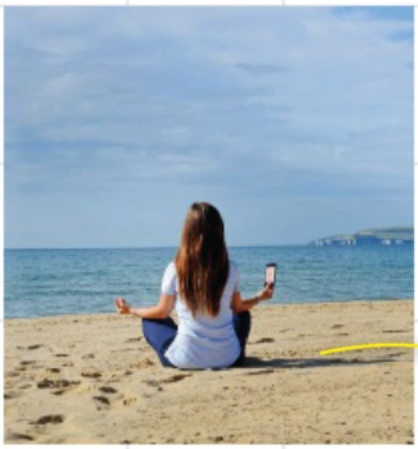
Never miss an event again

108 Have your say online
Get talkative from your phone

110 Get in shape and start running
Use helpful apps to get fit

112 Make a collage of your pictures
Create great collages

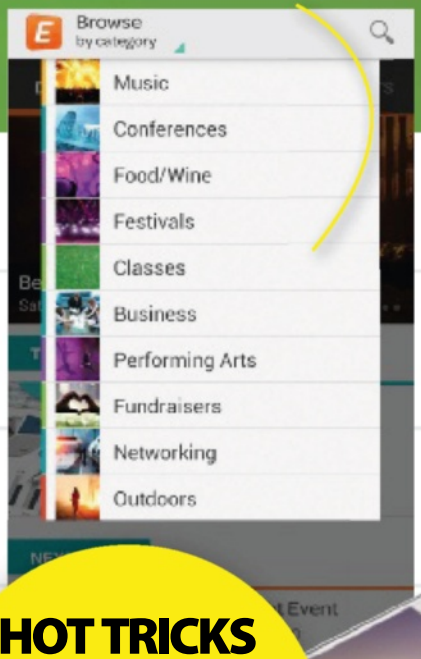


94 Find the food you love

118 Take it easy

96 Make your daily diet healthier

106 Book tickets for your favourite events



112 Make a collage of your pictures

HOT TRICKS

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- ✔ Get and keep fit
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"Your Galaxy can help you track your finances and much more"

Get creative with your photographs

Make minor adjustments or expressive changes to the images in your gallery

Over the years smartphones have become a commonly used tool for day-to-day photography. Whilst they can be great for quickly capturing those unplanned moments in life the quality of the captured images can sometimes suffer. All is not lost however as the Google Play store features a selection of apps that are tailored towards editing the images on your device.

The scope of these apps can vary depending on your skill level and the style of editing that is required. More serious apps such as Photoshop features more professional editing tools to help maximise the quality of your images.

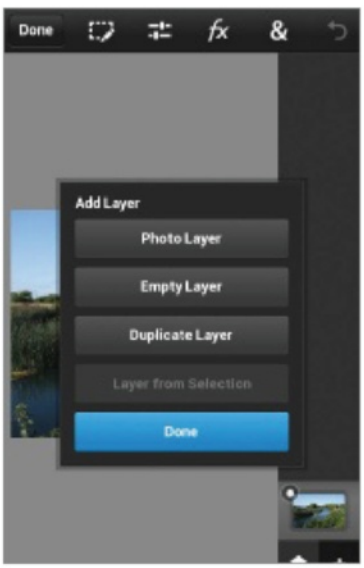
As an alternative there are apps that can create fun effects with your existing images making them ideal for sharing with others.

Create projects that have photos with multiple layers

App used: Adobe Photoshop Touch for phone

Price: £2.99/$4.99

Developer: Adobe Systems



1: Adding a layer

Load an image into the Photoshop app. Then tap the '+' icon in the lower right corner to open the layer menu. Select Layer from Selection.

2: Placing an image

Select another photo from your available galleries. You can place it anywhere on top of the previous image, adjust its size and its angle.

3: Blending the layers

Tap the tick icon to lock the image position. You can then use the options in the later menu to adjust how the images blend with each other.

Make simple adjustments to improve your saved pictures

App used: Snapseed
Price: Free
Developer: Nik Software Inc.

1: Select an effect
Load a photo into the app. Scroll across the bottom section of the app and select an editing option from the bottom of the display.

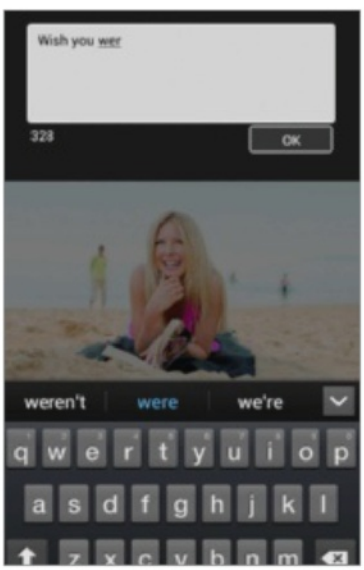
2: Swipe to edit
Snapseed has a unique editing interface. Swipe up and down the display to select an enhancement. Swipe left or right to adjust it.

3: Compare the results
Tap the icon in the top-right to compare the raw image and your edit. If you're happy with the results, tap Apply to save your changes.

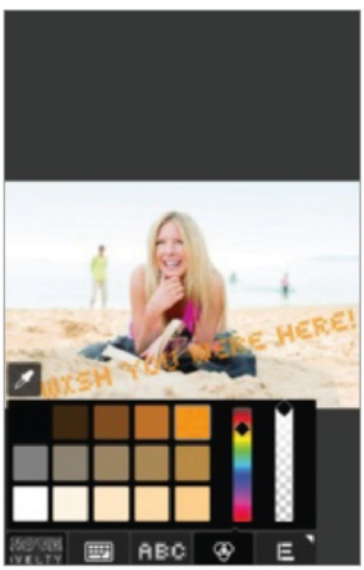
Add various text styles to your captured images

App used: Pixlr Express
Price: Free
Developer: Autodesk Inc.

1: Select a font
Either take a photo or load an image from your gallery. Tap the Text button and select a font type. You'll need to be online to download new fonts.



2: Enter your text
Start typing the required text into the pop-up window. You can use up to 340 characters. Tap the OK button when you are finished.



3: Position and edit
You can drag the text around the screen, pinch to adjust its size or rotate it by touching a corner. Colour adjustments are also available.

Learn new skills and knowledge

Increase your general knowledge with your Samsung Galaxy device

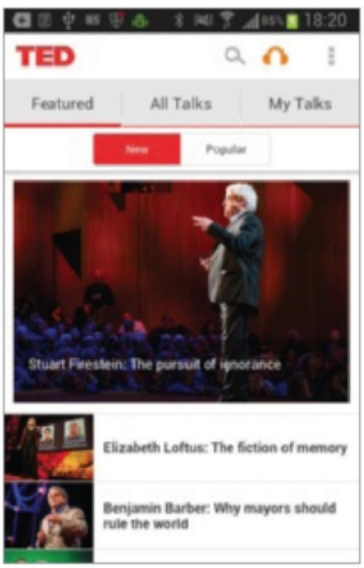
There is more to tablets and smartphones than just gaming and social networking. If you're willing to put the time in they can also be used as a means of improving yourself intellectually. A variety of options are available. You can choose to listen to fascinating talks from the most influential gurus in the world via the Ted app. Alternatively you can try learning a new language at no cost thanks to Duolingo. You can also browse the contents of the world's largest free encyclopedia with the official app for Wikipedia. Whatever you decide your Android device has the capacity to be used as a source of inspiration and education. All of these examples are free to download from the Google Play store.

Build a collection of inspirational videos and speeches

App used: TED

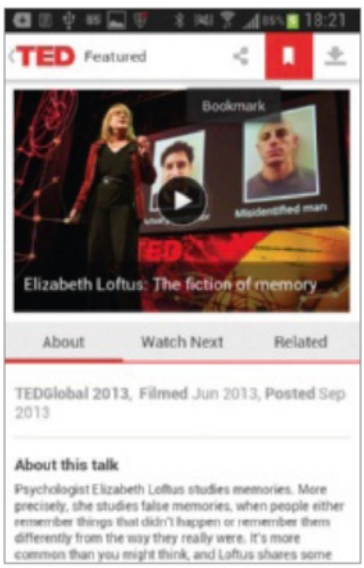
Price: Free

Developer: TED Conferences



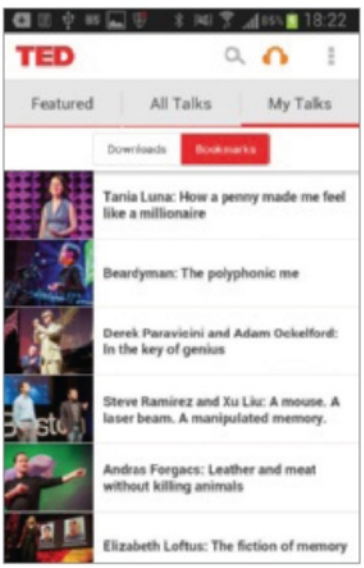
1: Browse the library

Use the menus to browse available videos. Use the Featured section to browse highlighted clips or All Talks to browse everything.



2: Bookmark a video

Select a video to view the information regarding its content. Tap the Bookmark icon at the top of the display to add it to your bookmarks.


TED
Featured
All Talks
My Talks
Downloads
Bookmarks
Tania Luna: How a penny made me feel like a millionaire
Beardyman: The polyphonic me
Derek Paravicini and Adam Ockelford: In the key of genius
Steve Ramirez and Xu Liu: A mouse. A laser beam. A manipulated memory.
Andras Forgacs: Leather and meat without killing animals
Elizabeth Loftus: The fiction of memory

3: View your bookmarks

Go back to the main page and select My Talks. Tap the Bookmarks section to view your selected clip. You can also download videos for offline playback.

Get started learning about our solar system

App used: Star Chart

Price: Free

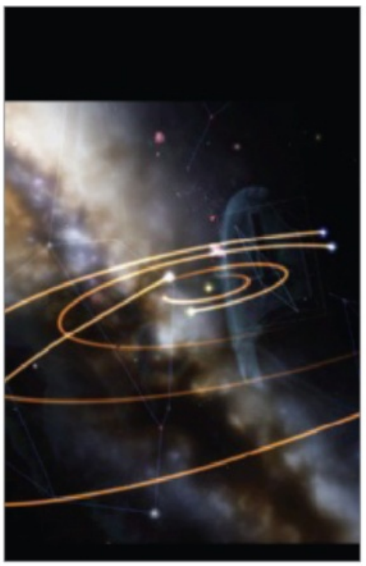
Developer: Escapist Games Limited

1: The sky around you

Open Star Chart and you'll be shown the night sky. Angle your device and it will show you what constellations you can see from your location.

2: Learn about space

Tap the menu and select Solar System. Then select an object of interest. The app will then tell you all the basis information and show its position.



3: Take a tour

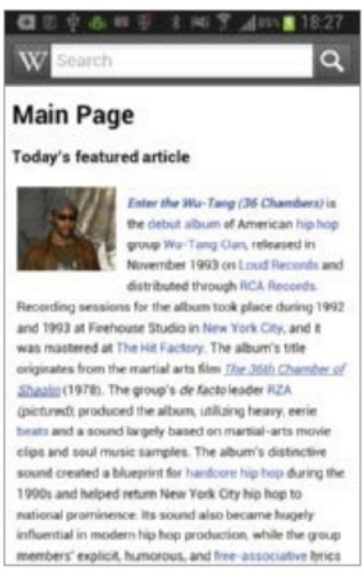
In the menu, tap Tours, and you will be able to choose a planet to explore. The app will show you the planet and its surroundings in a neat animation.

Save Wikipedia pages for when your Galaxy device is offline

App used: Wikipedia

Price: Free

Developer: Wikimedia Foundation


18:27
Search
Main Page
Today's featured article
Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers) is the debut album of American hip hop group Wu-Tang Clan, released in November 1993 on Loud Records and distributed through RCA Records.
Recording sessions for the album took place during 1992 and 1993 at Firehouse Studio in New York City, and it was mastered at The Hit Factory. The album's title originates from the martial arts film The 36th Chamber of Shaolin (1978). The group's de facto leader RZA (pictured) produced the album, utilizing heavy, eerie beats and a sound largely based on martial-arts movie clips and soul music samples. The album's distinctive sound created a blueprint for hardcore hip hop during the 1990s and helped return New York City hip hop to national prominence. Its sound also became hugely influential in modern hip hop production, while the group members' explicit, humorous, and free-associative lyrics

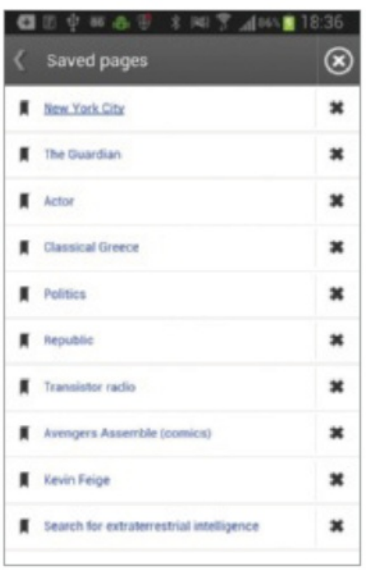
1: The main page

The Wikipedia app opens on the Main Page for the day. This includes a randomly chosen article, news related posts and handy search bar at the top.

18:28
Search
New York City
For other uses, see New York City (disambiguation).
"NYC" and "New York, New York" redirect here. For other uses, see NYC (disambiguation) and New York, New York (disambiguation).
New York City
City
City of New York
Aあ

2: Search and save

Use the search bar to find a topic of interest. Once it has opened tap the menu button in the lower right corner. Select the Save page option.



3: Saved pages

Tap the menu icon and select Saved pages. This will open your list of saved articles. You can remove articles by tapping the 'x' icon.

Find news that suits you

Let your Galaxy device become your number one news source

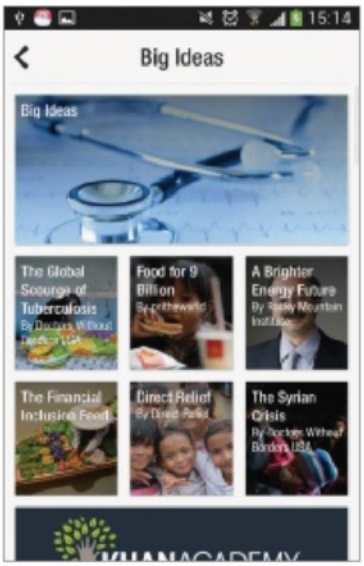
All the major news sources have their own apps, but if you want to collect together stories across a series of different sources then there are three apps which you won't be able to do with out. With Flipboard you'll be able to select from a list of different news categories and subcategories to collate your favourite stories into one place. Google's news app Google Currents Can provide you with a digest of different magazine editions of your favourite newspapers. Using the gNews app you'll be able to setup search parameters for Google News to keep your results local to your area and specific to your own interest.

Create a personalized news feed using the Flipboard app

App used: Flipboard

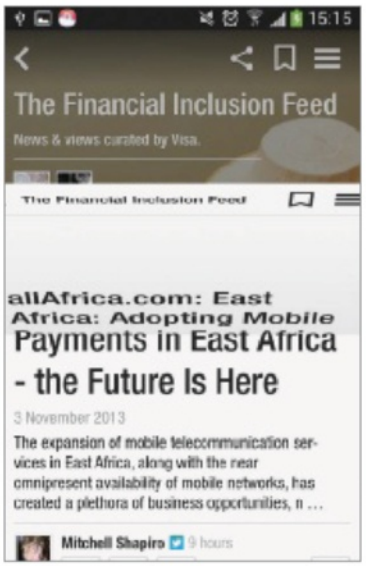
Price: Free

Developer: Flipboard



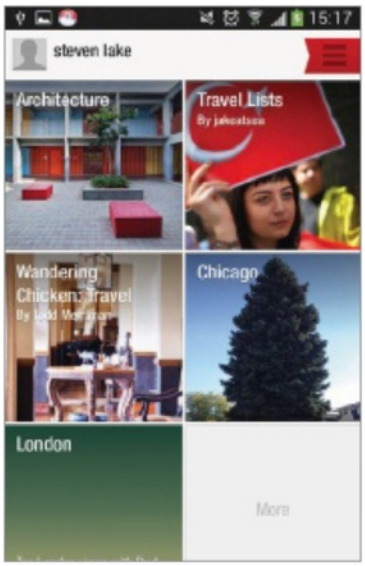
1: Searching for news

Tap the menu icon at the top right of the screen. Under discover more tap on a news category, then select a subcategory.


15:15
The Financial Inclusion Feed
News & views curated by Visa.
The Financial Inclusion Feed
allAfrica.com: East Africa: Adopting Mobile Payments in East Africa - the Future Is Here
3 November 2013
The expansion of mobile telecommunication services in East Africa, along with the near omnipresent availability of mobile networks, has created a plethora of business opportunities, n ...
Mitchell Shapiro

2: Browsing a news source

Press and swipe upwards to 'flip' through all stories from a selected source. Stories are ordered by date. To view the story tap the headline.



3: Subscribe to a freed

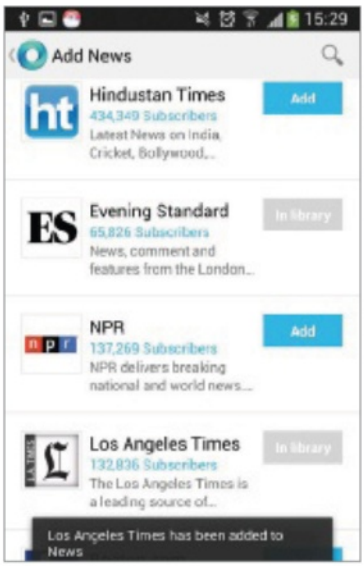
When viewing news feeds, tap the bookmark icon at the top right of the screen to subscribe to it. This feed will be added to your subscription list.

Access a bundle of free Magazine editions of your favourite new sources

App used: Google Currents

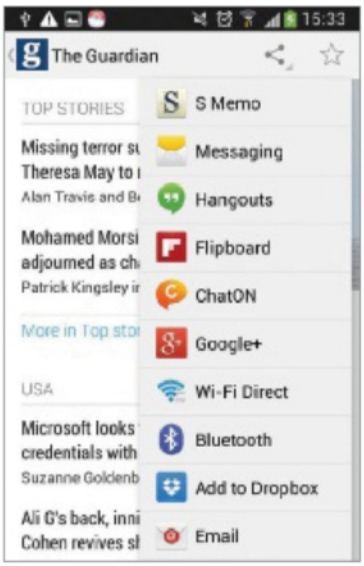
Price: Free

Developer: Google



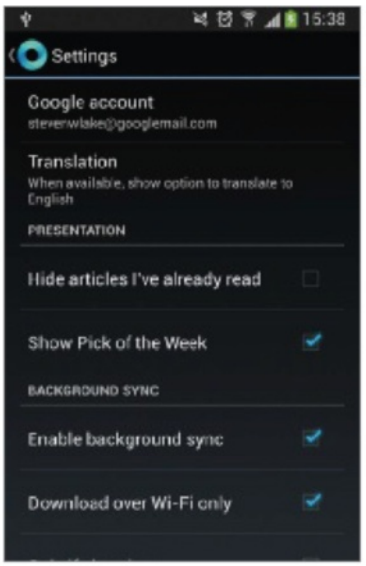
1: Customize your news

Tap the Google Currents icon at the top of the screen, then tap Add Subscriptions. Select a news or search for a feed to add it to your news feed.



2: Sharing content

When viewing a news article tap the menu icon at the bottom left of the screen, tap the share icon to share stories with others via various apps.



3: Google Currents Settings

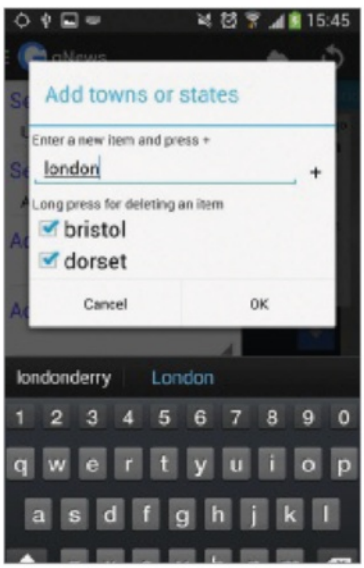
Tap the Navigation button on your Galaxy then tap Settings. You can sync with a Google account, manage your viewing and offline options.

Localise your Google news feed, receiving news relevant to your area

App used: G-News

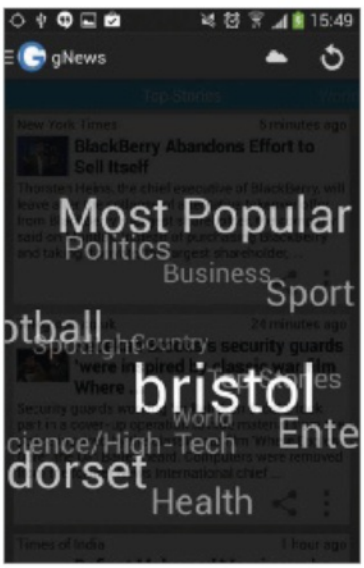
Price: Free

Developer: Patrick Galley



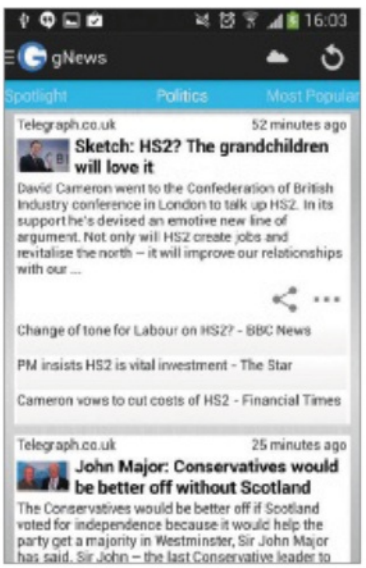
1: Setting up a location

After launching the app tap the menu icon at the top left of the screen. Select a Country then tap Add towns or States and add some locations.



2: Browsing local news

Within gNews tap the cloud icon. Here you can browse through the various locations, topics and keywords you setup in step one. Tap word to view.


16:03
gNews
Spotlight
Politics
Most Popular
Telegraph.co.uk
52 minutes ago
Sketch: HS2? The grandchildren will love it
Change of tone for Labour on HS2? - BBC News
PM insists HS2 is vital investment - The Star
Cameron vows to cut costs of HS2 - Financial Times
Telegraph.co.uk
25 minutes ago
John Major: Conservatives would be better off without Scotland

3: View multiple sources

Some stories will group others articles together that have the same topic. Tap the menu icon next to the share link on any article to view relevant stories.

Manage and track your finances

Use apps to help you make and save money

Given the rocky economic climate of the last few years it's not uncommon to feel the requirement for a little financial management. Taking control of your finances isn't always a task that is met with enthusiasm. The job can be made a little easier thanks to the available tools on the Google Play store.

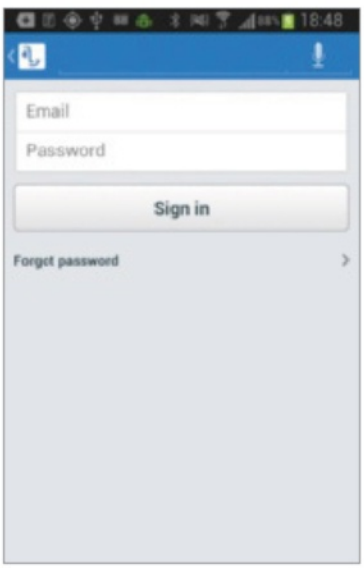
There are apps that allow the user to track the contents of a savings account by inputting their expenses and earnings. You can also keep on top of the more mundane day-to-day costs of living (eg bills) and set reminders for reading your meters. There are even apps that can help you earn money (eg cashback) when purchasing items online or visiting your local retail stores.

Earn cashback when you make purchases online or visit stores

App used: Quidco

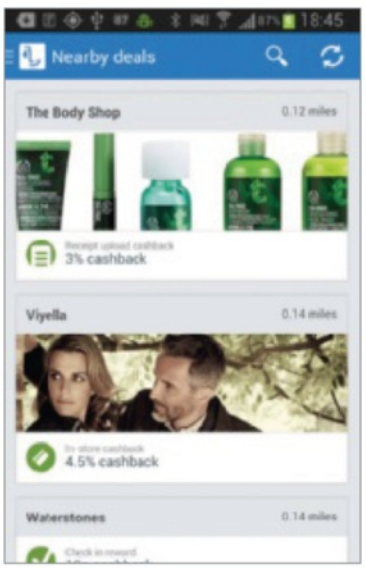
Price: Free

Developer: Quidco



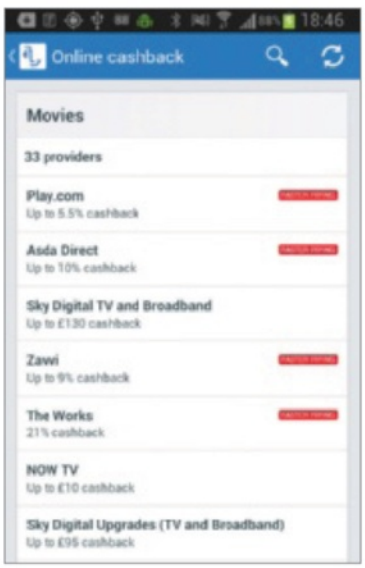
1: Log in to Quidco

You can create a free Quidco account or log into an existing account from within the app. You'll need to do either in order to claim any cashback.



2: Get local cashback

Tap the Nearby tab to view a list of local offers. Tap an entry to view the available deals. These can be vouchers or cashback for visiting a store.



3: Get cashback online

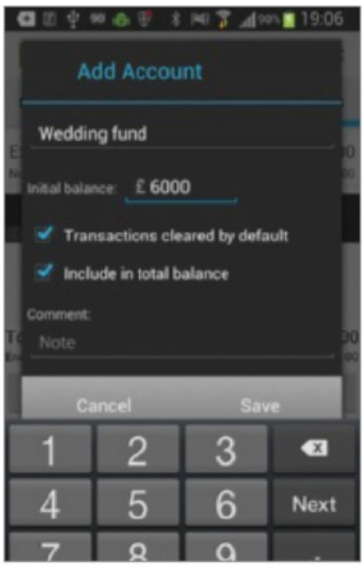
Use the Search tab and enter a search term. Select an entry to view the cashback rates and visit the website. Cashback is automatically applied.

Keep an eye on your cashflow with this free finance app

App used: MoneyWise

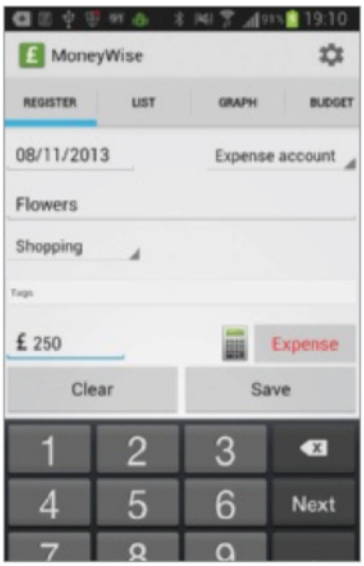
Price: Free

Developer: Handy North



1: Set your account details

Tap the Accounts tab and select Add Account. You can name your account and set a starting balance. Multiple accounts can be added to the app.



2: Add a new transaction

Use the Register tab to enter details of a transaction. Use the Expense/Income tab to toggle whether the amount is incoming or outgoing.

3: Viewing results

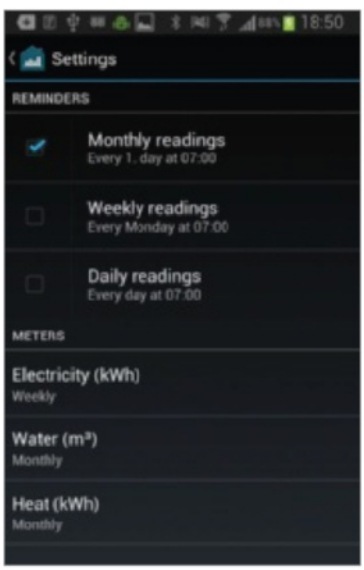
You can view results in a variety of ways. Use the List tab to view your account details 'at a glance' or select Graph to view pie charts and graphs.

Keep up to date with your meter readings and track your usage

App used: Meter Readings

Price: Free

Developer: Christian Melchior

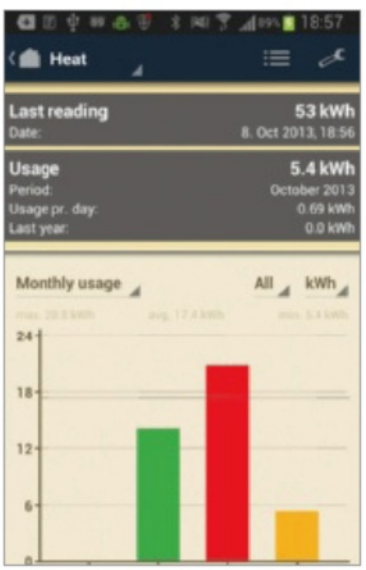


1: Set your costs

Select Configuration from the main screen and the meter type that you want to edit. Tap the Tariffs option and enter your 'cost per unit' details.

2: Read your meters

Select Read meters. Add relevant details to each section and select Save. Add previous readings by selecting the date at the top of the display.



3: Compare readings

Compare your monthly and weekly results by selecting the Readings option from the home page. Filter results by amount used and cost.

Find the food you love

Locate top restaurants, find your favourite dish or order takeaway with your Samsung Galaxy

When it comes to eating no one want's to risk walking into a place that doesn't suit them, so why not let your Galaxy device do all the hard work for you, helping you to find the perfect restaurant or takeaway in minutes. Use the Zomato app to find all the top eating spots in your area, letting you browse the menu and prices at your leisure, or if you know exactly what you want then let the Foodspotting app find a place near by that serves it. If you fancy staying in for the night but don't have a takeaway menu to hand then check out the JustEat app, which lets you order a takeaway that'll be delivered to your door.

Find the best restaurants and deals worldwide with Zomato

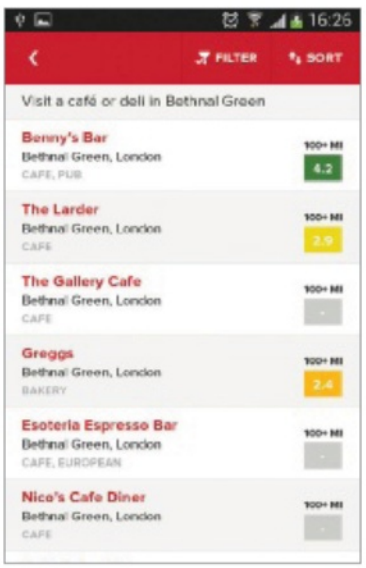
App used: Zomato

Price: Free

Developer: Zoomato

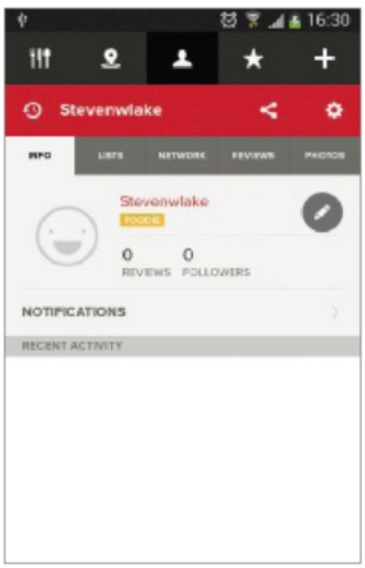
1: Sign in to Zomato

By registering or signing in via Facebook or Google to Zomato you can better connect with the app. You can rate, review and share via the app.



2: Pick a style

From the main menu tap Browse Restaurants, then select what you're looking for. Finally, choose a location and you'll be presented with a list.



3: Become a foodie

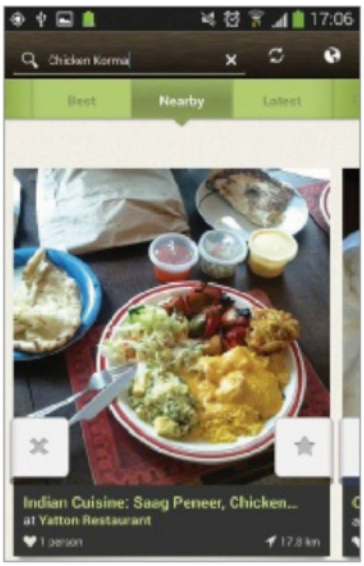
Tap on the person icon at the top to create a personal profile. Here you can check on your reviews and see who's following you on Zomato.

Search for local restaurants by your favourite meal

App used: Foodspotting
Price: Free
Developer: Foodspotting

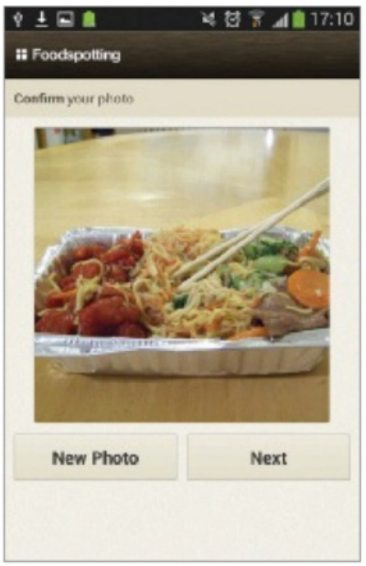
1: Explore dishes

From the Foodspotting main menu, tap Find Dishes. Using your location services the app will display images of dishes available at local restaurants.



2: Find your favorite dish

Tap nearby on the above menu the search for a dish of your choosing. Results will display local restaurants that serve what you are looking for.

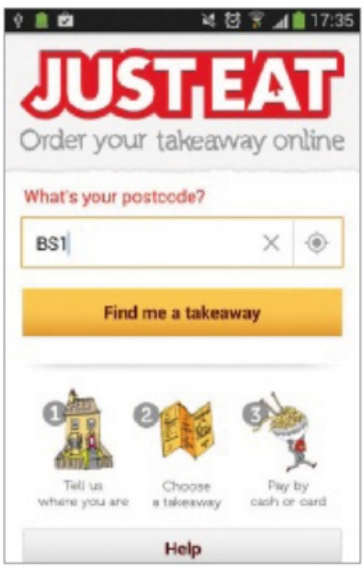


3: Spot a dish

Tap Spot a dish. Take a photo of a dish or import one from your gallery, then input the dish and restaurant details to share with other users.

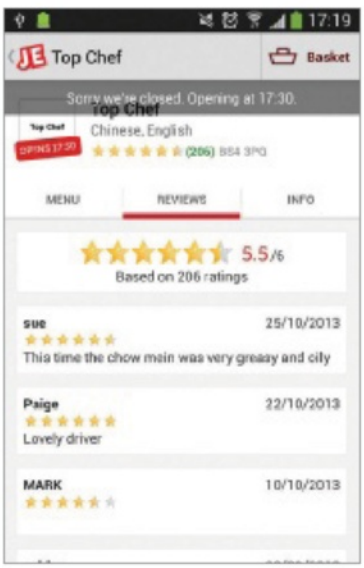
Have food delivered to your door in a few simple taps

App used: JustEat
Price: Free
Developer: Alportela Labs



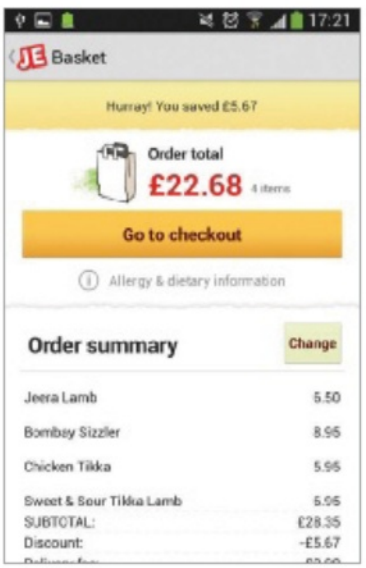
1: Find a takeaway

Open the app and input your postcode or tap the GPS icon to pinpoint your location. From the results tap Cuisine and select a type.



2: Sort by rating

Tap Sort then select User Rating to order the results by positive reviews. Tap on a takeaway and tap reviews to read more about peoples opinions.



3: Placing an order

Select the items you want from the menu, then tap on the basket icon. Review and checkout to pay for your order. Then wait for your delivery!

Make your daily diet healthier

Your Samsung Galaxy can inform your meal choices and steer you towards a healthier path

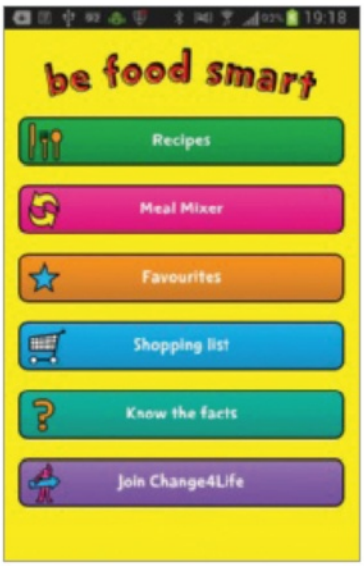
Obesity and healthy eating have been hot topics in the media for a while now. Whilst many of us may like to eat healthier it can be difficult changing our much loved habits. If you're willing to put trust in your Samsung Galaxy it can be used as a portable guide to more positive meal choices. There are apps that can scan food items and record the amount of calories involved. Your calorie intake (and subsequent weight) can then be recorded over a chosen period. There are also apps that are filled with excellent healthy meal ideas and details on how to make them. You can even create a healthy shopping list for your next trip to the supermarket.

Choose three healthy meals and create a shopping list in seconds

App used:
Change4Life Healthier Recipes

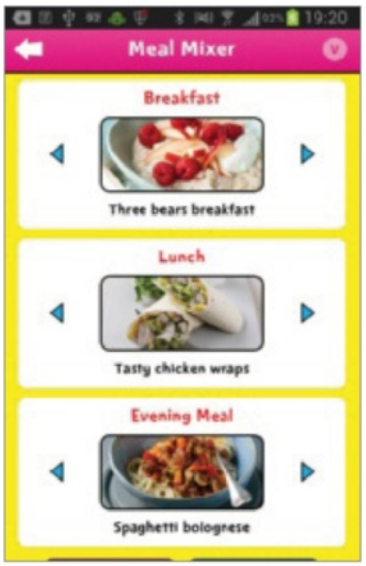
Price: Free

Developer:
Antbits Ltd.



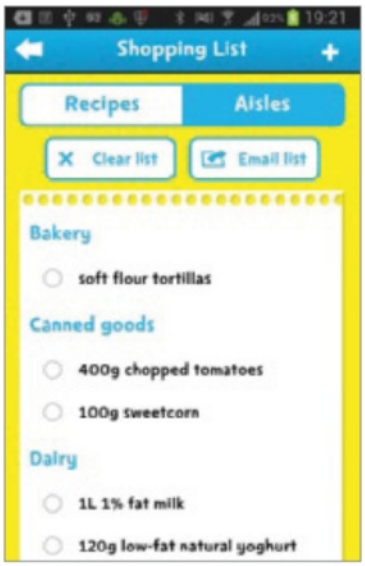
1: Select your meals

Change4Life is packed with healthy meals to try out. Select the Recipes option for a range of meal types, or try Meal Mixer for a random choice.



2: The Meal Mixer

Tap the Mix meals option whilst in the Meal Mixer screen and the app will randomly select three meals. Tap 'Add to basket' to create a shopping list.



3: Your shopping list

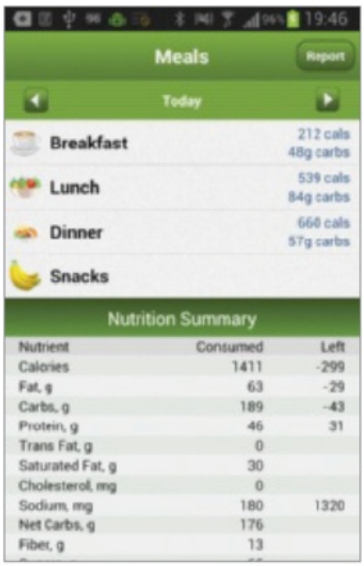
Select the Shopping List option from the menu to open your list of goods to purchase. The list can be arranged into food groups or by recipe.

Set a weight goal and achieve it by tracking your calorie intake

App used: Calorie Counter PRO MyNetDiary

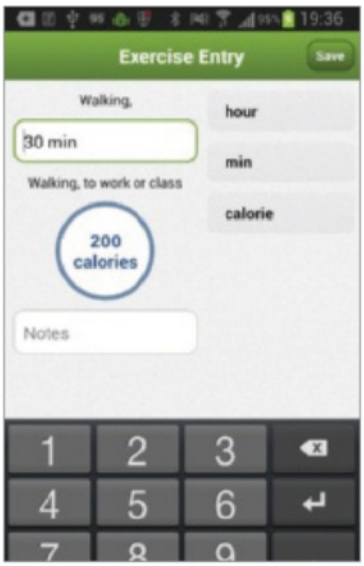
Price: £2.57/$3.99

Developer: MyNetDiary.com



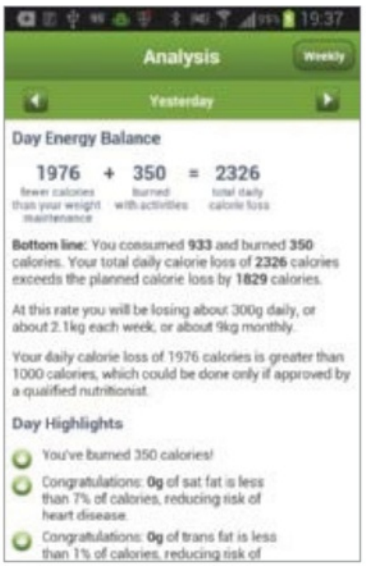
1: Add you meals

Tap Meals and use the arrow keys to select a day. Tap a meal type and enter the relevant details. Select Save when done. Repeat this for each meal type.



2: Add exercise

You can also add exercise tasks such as walking to work or cycling. These help bring down your daily calorie intake and are calculated by the app.


Analysis
Weekly
Yesterday
Day Energy Balance
1976 + 350 = 2326
Bottom line: You consumed 933 and burned 350 calories. Your total daily calorie loss of 2326 calories exceeds the planned calorie loss by 1829 calories.
Day Highlights
You've burned 350 calories!

3: Your daily analysis

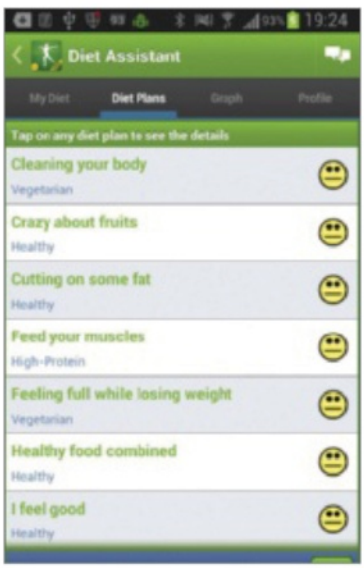
Tap Analysis to view the breakdown of your progress for that day including calories burned, consumed and how it relates to your current diet plan.

Choose the optimal diet for your lifestyle or set a specific goal

App used: Diet Assistant – Weight Loss

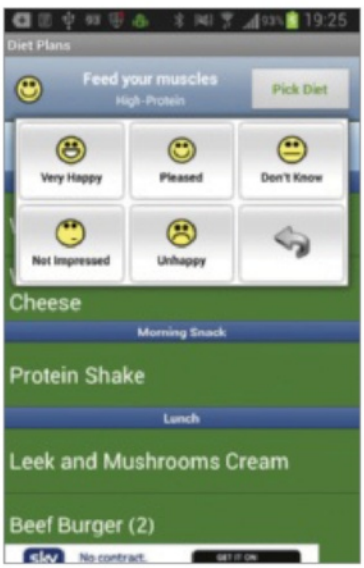
Price: Free

Developer: Alportela Labs



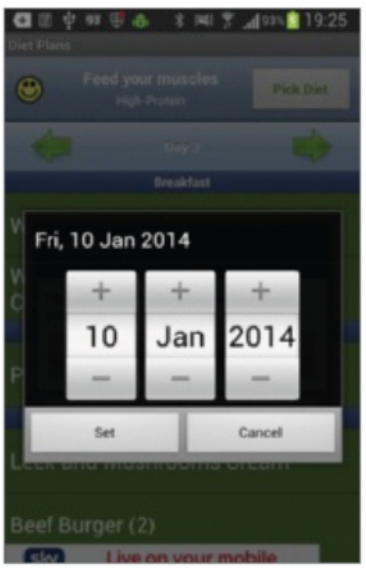
1: Selecting a diet

Tap the Choose a Diet Plan option to view the available diet types. You can then select the diet type that suits your own particular needs.



2: Check and rate diets

You can browse the details for the selected diet. Use the arrows at the top to scroll through each day. You can rate the diet via the top left icon.



3: Pick a start date

Tap the Pick Date button to set your start date. The app will prompt you to sign into Facebook or Twitter, tap the back button to if you'd rather not.

Revise for your upcoming exams

Select from a number of apps to decide on your approach to revising

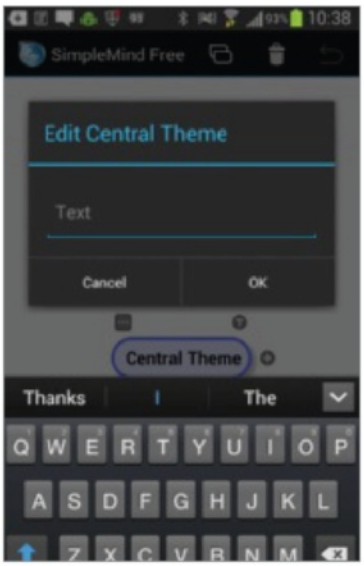
Revising for exams can be stressful at the best of times. For many it's a tricky balance between finding an effective method and also studying the right material. With your Samsung device a variety of approaches to revising are available to you. You can decide to create a mind map where your ideas and thoughts are laid out into a brainstorming diagram. There are apps which can test you with the types of questions that may come up in a particular exam. You can even browse the papers of previous years to get a flavour of what may come up in your own test. Over the next few examples we will look at apps that can let you achieve this.

Plan out a train of thought with this brainstorming app

App used: SimpleMind Free Mind Mapping

Price: Free

Developer: ModelMaker Tools

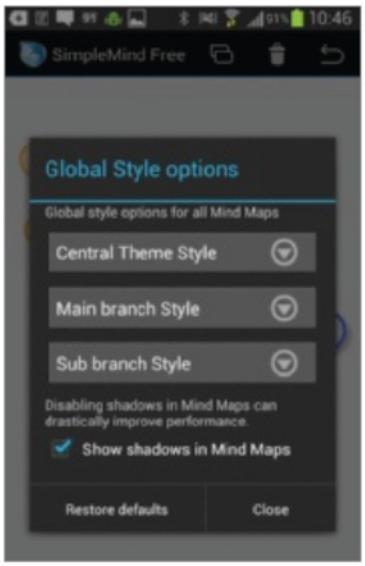


1: Create a central theme

Before you start you will need to decide what theme your diagram will be based upon. Enter your title and select OK.

2: Adding a node

Tap on a node to view the available options that appear around it. Tap the '+' icon to add a new node. The app will then prompt you for content.



3: Customise your style

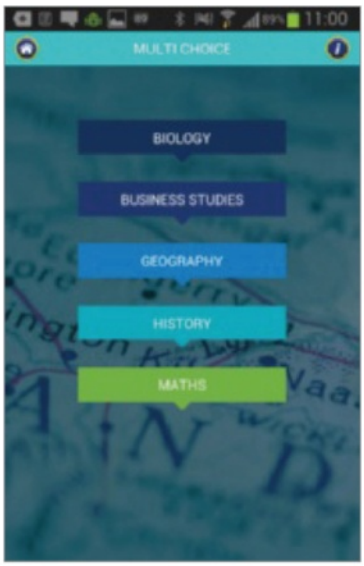
Tap the menu button to adjust the style of your mind map. Use the Global Style options to adjust each individual section.

Use multiple choice questions as a revision tool

App used: School Revision App

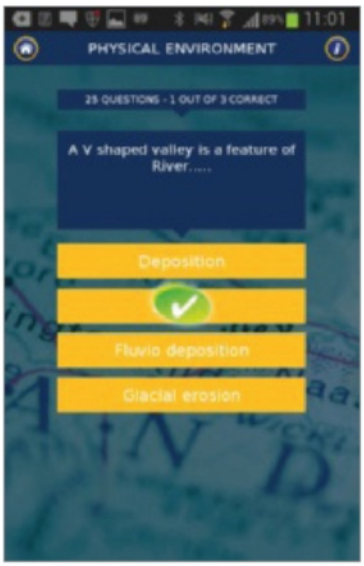
Price: Free

Developer: Unique Publishing Ltd



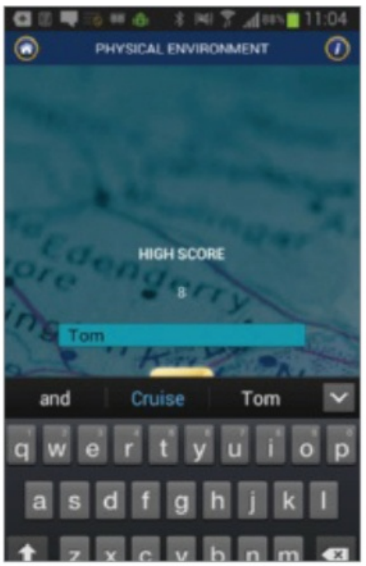
1: Select a subject

Open the app and select Multi-Choice from the opening menu. From here you can select a subject followed by a selection of topics.


PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT
25 QUESTIONS - 1 OUT OF 3 CORRECT
A V shaped valley is a feature of River.....
Deposition
Fluvio deposition
Glacial erosion

2: Taking the test

The app will run through a number of questions on the chosen topic. Select your chosen answer and the app will confirm whether you are correct.



3: Quiz completed

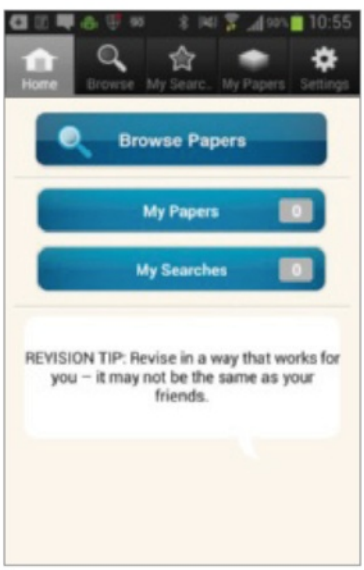
With your answer chosen tap the Next button to move to the next question. Once the quiz is over you'll be notified if you have attained a high score.

Browse previous exam papers to understand what is required

App used: Edexcel Past Papers

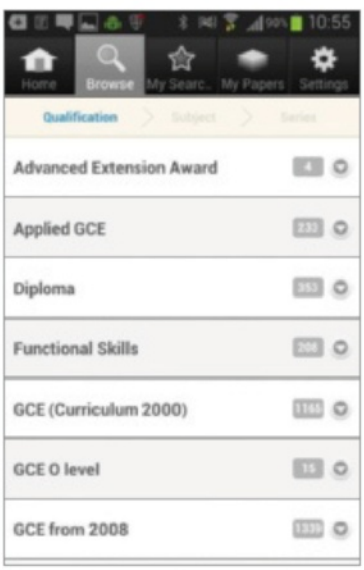
Price: Free

Developer: Pearson Education (UK)



1: The Home page

The Home page displays links to your downloaded papers, previous searches and tabs to browse and change settings.



2: Browsing subjects

Tap the Browse tab to open the directory of available topics. The right hand side of the display will show how many entries are in each subject.

3: Download and read

Select your chosen paper and tap the download option followed by Open Paper. You can then view the file within the default PDF viewer.

Plan car journeys in advance

If you're a regular road traveller use your Galaxy as a route planner

Samsung already includes a solid set of navigational tools in all of its Galaxy products as they have Google's Maps app built-in. This is great for the occasional long journey but it may not be enough for users who travel on a more regular basis. To help with this there are some great apps that can really make the most of your time and money.

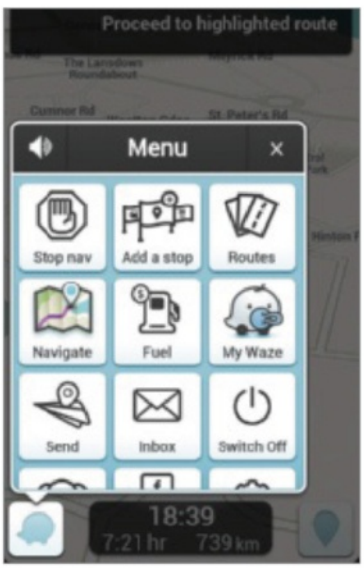
The Waze app for example can supply real-time updates from other users regarding traffic conditions, speed cameras and even petrol prices. If you have to visit a number of locations as part of a journey it is possible to have your Android device work out the most optimal route. Below we'll look at some examples available in the Google Play store.

Keep updated on local traffic events on your planned route

App used:
Waze Social GPS Maps & Traffic

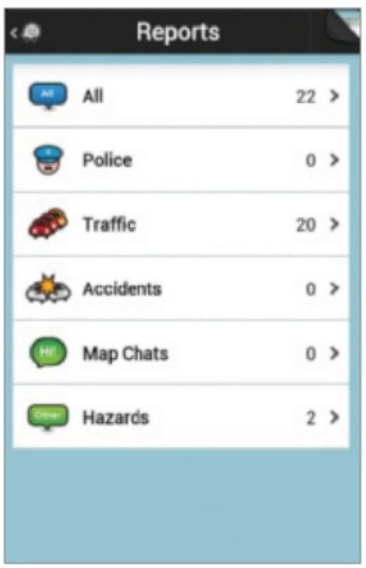
Price: Free

Developer:
Waze



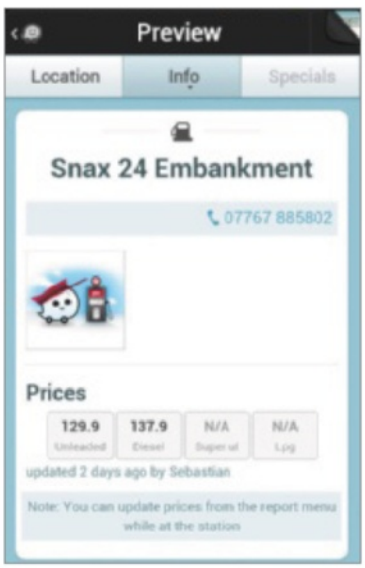
1: Set your route

Open Waze and set up a route plan. Once this is done tap the Menu option in the lower left corner and select the Reports button.



2: Select a report

Waze will supply a list of topics to look up. You can view all reports or filter a specific topic. There is also an option to check Along Route information.



3: Check fuel prices

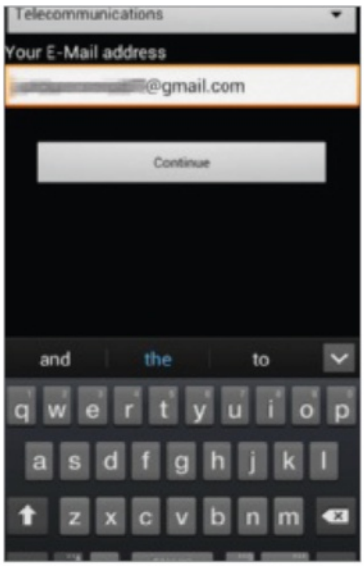
You can also look up garages along your route and compare the fuel prices. You can tap an entry and select Go to navigate there.

Use Route4Me to plan journeys with multiple stop off points

App used: Route4Me Route Planner

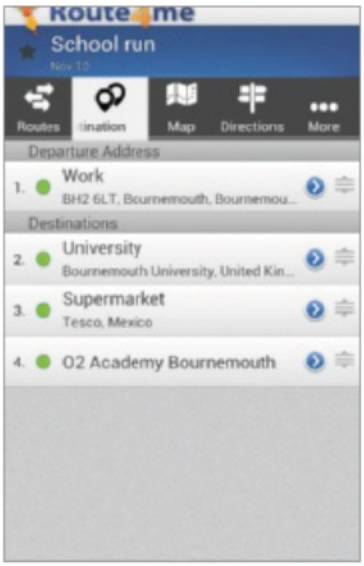
Price: Free

Developer: Route4Me, LLC



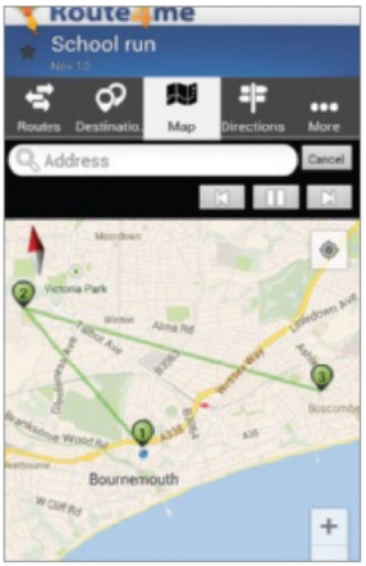
1: Register your details

To get started you'll need to inform the app of your details regarding your occupation and email. You can then tap Add to add addresses.



2: Optimise your route

Keep entering address details until you have added all of your planned stops. Tap the Optimize button so the app can calculate your ideal route.



3: Get your directions

With your route planned you can view a map or a list of directions. You can also bookmark the route as a favourite for further reference.

Avoid roaming charges with NavFree's offline route maps

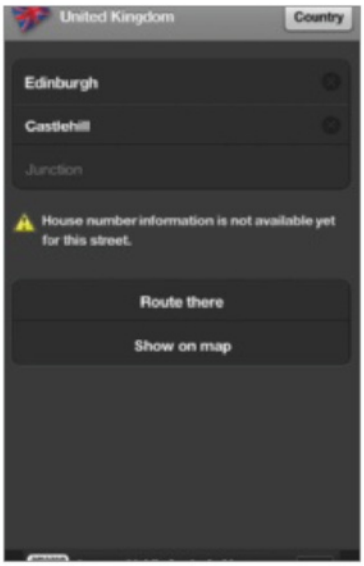
App used: NavFree: Free GPS Navigation

Price: Free

Developer: Navmii

1: Download map

On setting up the app, NavFree will ask you to download a map for your country. Warning: This can eat up your internal memory space.



2: Get your route

Once your map is downloaded, tap button in bottom-right for menu options. Enter your destination in Navigate To then select Route There.

3: Customise your journey

As well as being able to view your route map in 2D, 3D and safety screen mode, tap My Route to add detours and avoid motorways or tolls.

Plan your wedding in advance

Alleviate the stress of organising a wedding with your Samsung's assistance

If you've recently decided to get married you've no doubt realised that there is an overwhelming amount of tasks that need to be taken care of. There are all kinds of ways to get help with this process and your Galaxy device can also be used as a source of assistance.

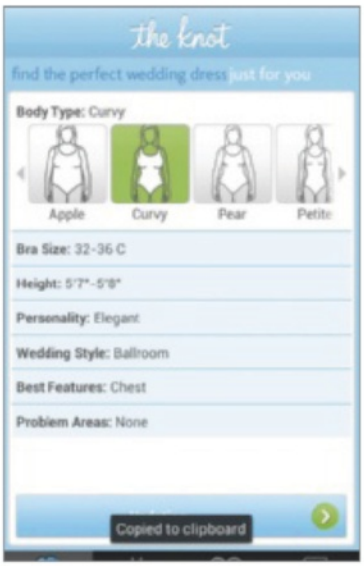
The Google Play store is home to a variety of apps that can help with the various decisions that you'll have to make along the way. These range from the huge tasks such as choosing a wedding dress, to the finer details such as what to pay the photographer. Even if you don't plan to actually use your Android device for any actual planning these apps are still worth a look to get some general ideas and inspiration.

Find that perfect wedding dress without having to leave the house

App used: Wedding Dress Look Book

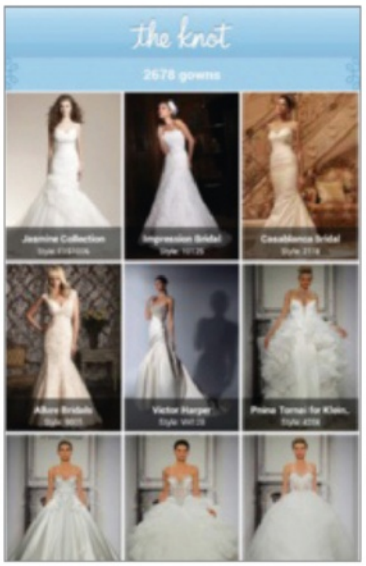
Price: Free

Developer: The Knot



1: Enter your preferences

Use the menus in the Just for You section to enter your dress preferences. As you add information the app will track suitable dresses.



2: View your selection

Tap the View button to view a gallery of results. Select an image and use the menu key to view more information or bookmark the dress as a favourite.

3: Search for dresses

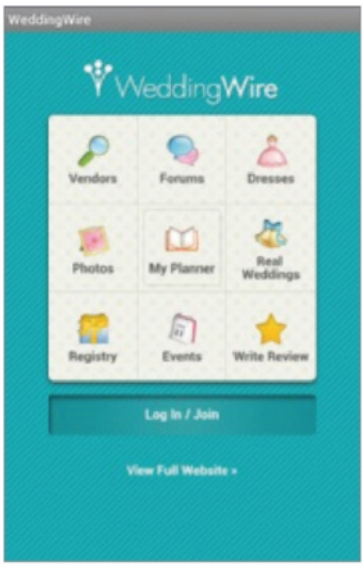
You can also use the Search tab and select your own criteria for finding a dress. Again, the app will track how many dresses fit your criteria.

Find a band to play at your wedding

App used: WeddingWire

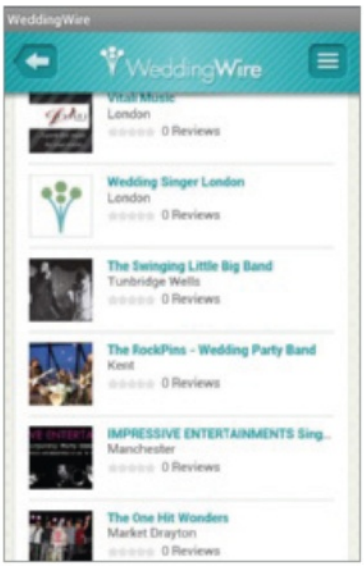
Price: Free

Developer: WeddingWire, Inc.



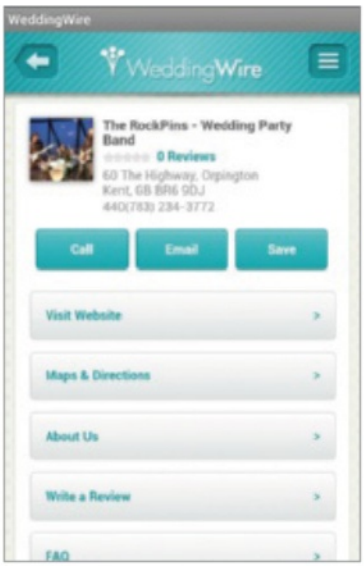
1: The main menu

WeddingWire contains many topics and features. Here we will focus on finding a wedding band. Select Vendors from the main menu.



2: Selecting a service

The next screen lists services that you may require. These include Catering, Flowers, Invitations and more. Select the Band option at the top.



3: Location and options

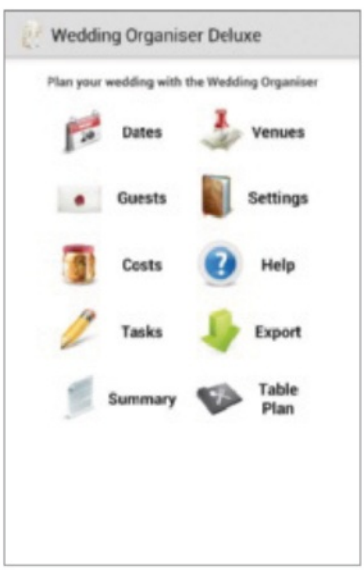
The app will prompt for a location so it can find local results. Select an entry from the results to view contact details, website links and reviews.

Manage your guests, invites and details

App used: Wedding Organiser Deluxe

Price: £0.99/$1.49

Developer: Stuart Race



1: The guest list

To manage your guest list, select the Guests option from the main menu. Select 'Add guest' to start adding the details of your intended guests details.

2: Adding the details

Add your guest details, selecting who they are the guest of, what they are invited to, dietary requirements and whether they have replied.

3: View your guest list

Tap Save and your guest will be added to the list. The app tracks total guests, number of replies and how many will be present throughout the day.

Get help with moving house

Plan your move with ease

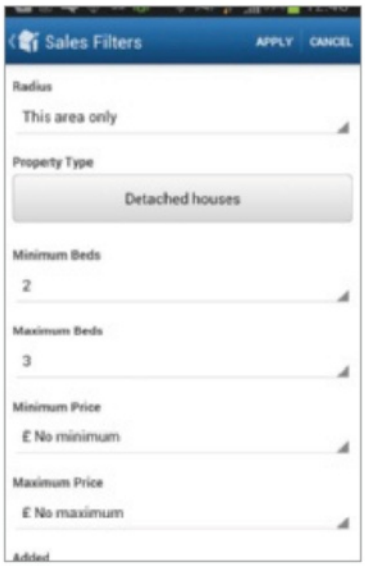
Moving house is arguably one of the most stressful tasks you can put yourself through. From the moment you start house hunting to the actual moving day itself there are countless tasks and challenges to overcome. Should you need to you can call on help from your Android device and set it to work with the task in hand. It can be your guide to finding a property in your local area (or beyond if need be). It can be used to create visual notes on pictures that have been taken of a potential new home. It can also act as a handy checklist for when the moving date finally comes around. Over the next few steps we'll look at how to implement these tasks.

Browse for available properties and make enquiries from within the app

App used: Rightmove

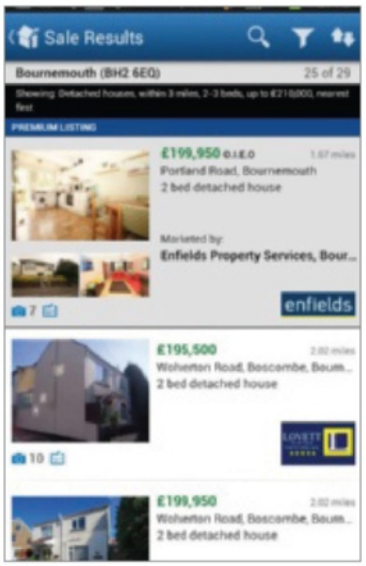
Price: Free

Developer: Rightmove



1: Start a new search

Tap the For Sale option and enter your desired search location. Use Apply Filters to select specific property details and narrow your search details.



2: Search results

Tap Apply and the app will perform a search and list your matching results. Use the top icons to re-order the results or show a map.

Property Details
£199,950 O.I.E.O
Portland Road, Bournemouth
2 bed detached house
1 of 7
A delightful detached house in the popular location of Winton, Bournemouth. This property boasts on the ground floor a spacious kitchen/ diner and a seperate lounge. Both rooms have doors giving access to the rear garden. The first floor benefits from two double bedrooms and a bathroom.

3: View property

Tap an entry to view it. Depending on the available details you'll be able to view photos or floorplans. Tap Email Agent to arrange a viewing.

Add notes and measurements to images taken of buildings

App used: D-Photo Measures Free

Price: Free

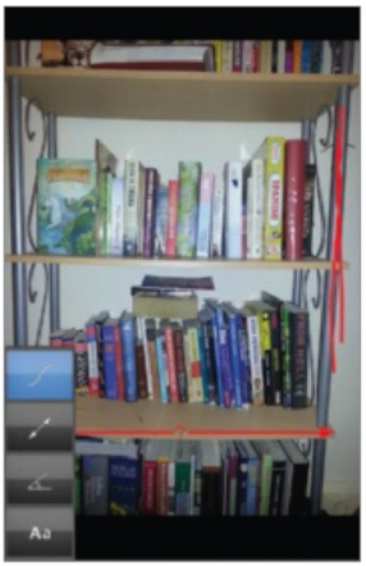
Developer: D-Solutions

1: Select a photo

D-Photo allows you to edit existing images. You can import a photo from the gallery or take a picture using the device's camera to get started.

2: Adding notes

With a photo imported the app will give some pointers on how to create new details on your image. This is generally via two fingers.



3: Add additional details

With the tools at the bottom of the display you can add text boxes, distance and angle markers. Your photos can then be shared externally.

Quickly create checklists of tasks for when moving between properties

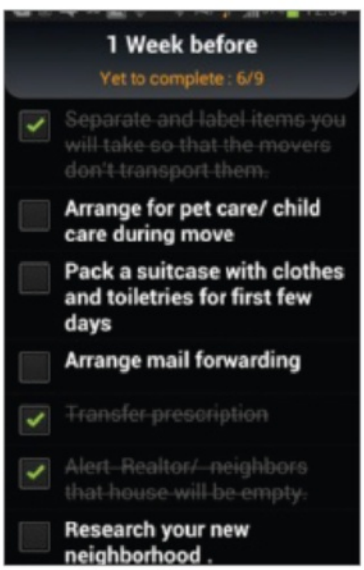
App used: Moving Planner

Price: £0.63 / $1.00

Developer: Jimbl

1: Select a list

Moving Planner includes a number of lists that relate to the various steps involved in house moving. Select the required list to make amendments.


1 Week before
Yet to complete : 6/9
Separate and label items you will take so that the movers don't transport them.
Arrange for pet care/ child care during move
Pack a suitcase with clothes and toiletries for first few days
Arrange mail forwarding
Transfer prescription
Alert Realtor/ neighbors that house will be empty.
Research your new neighborhood .

2: Ticking off tasks

Moving Planner will pre-populate the list with relevant tasks. You can check off each task as it's completed. Use the menu option to add additional items.

My Moving List
Yet to complete : 173/214
Establish new service (0/5)
3 Weeks before (2/10)
Items to be returned (0/9)
Items to retrieve (0/4)
Change of Address (45/45)
2 Weeks before (6/13)
1 Week before (1/9)
Pack suitcase with (9/9)
Moving day (17/17)

3: Main list details

As you update your tasks the main moving list will update accordingly. Using the menu option you can export, edit or share your current list.

Book tickets for your favourite events

Buy tickets for gigs, classes, festivals, and even conferences with ease

Ever missed out on a gig, festival, or a really interesting course, just because you weren't able to get to a computer? With the advent of mobile technology it's now more possible than ever to stay connected to the things that are important to you.

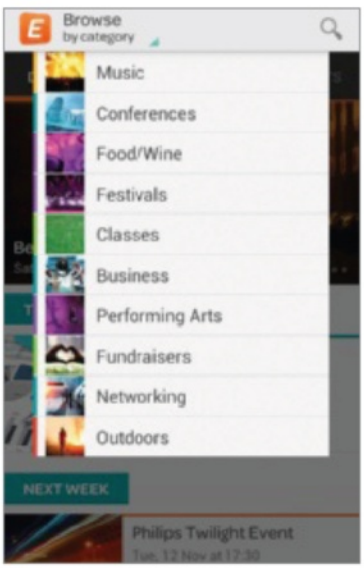
With a wide range of apps now available to purchase items almost instantly, there is no longer a reason to miss out on that band you've always wanted to see, or take a class, or just stay up-to-date about what events are happening locally, and across the nation. There is a large selection of ticket-purchasing apps available in the Play Store, and we've looked at some of the best.

Easily find events locally or across the nation

App used: Eventbrite

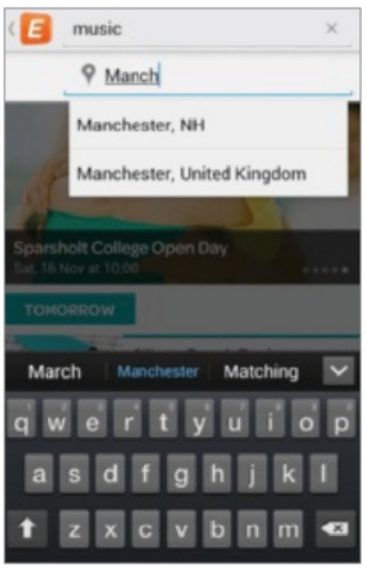
Price: Free

Developer: Eventbrite



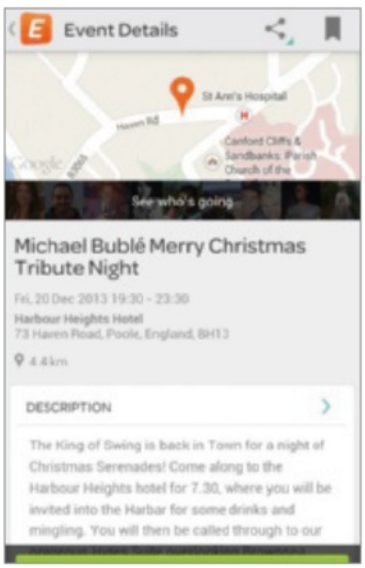
1: Browse for tickets

Tap the Browse button at the top of the screen to bring up a drop down menu with a list of different types of events for you.



2: Amend the location

By default Eventbrite searches events in your area. You can search further afield by tapping the magnifying glass and entering your desired location.



3: Get your tickets

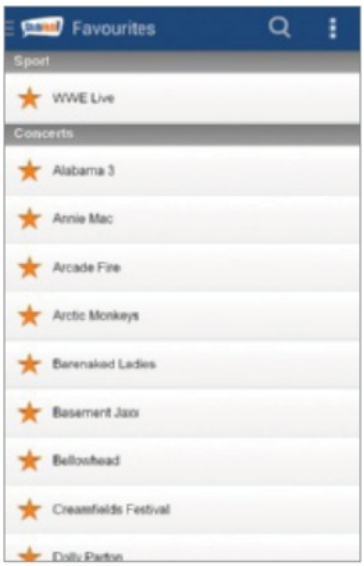
Just tap on the event and then Get Tickets. A screen with event details, prices, quantity and an Order Now button will appear. It's that easy!

An app with which to both buy and sell tickets

App used: StubHub Tickets for Events

Price: Free

Developer: StubHub



1: Create a Favourites list

Create a favourites list for artists, teams and events. This list automatically updates when tickets are available for events you have marked as favourite.

2: Check seating available

StubHub enables you to check what seating is available for your tickets with a floor map of the venue. Don't get caught behind a pillar!

3: Sell your tickets

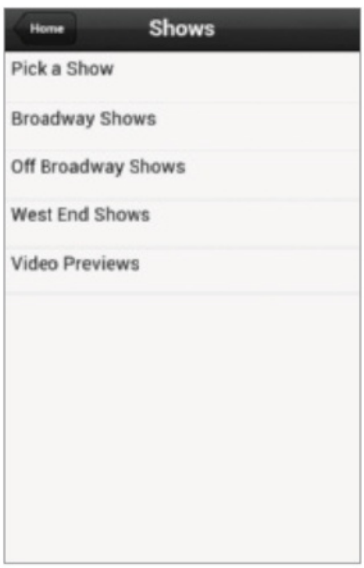
You can also sell tickets that you no longer need or have inadvertently purchased. Just tap Sell Tickets and enter the ticket details.

Your one stop shop for Broadway and West End shows

App used: Broadway World

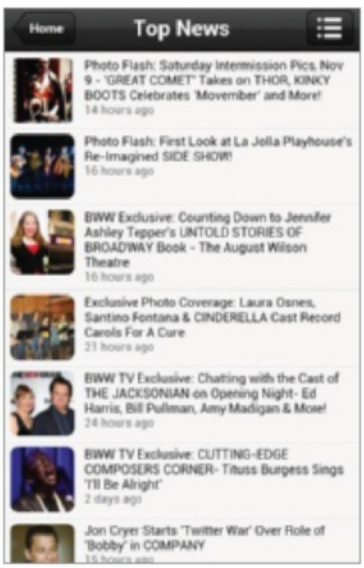
Price: Free

Developer: BroadwayWorld



1: Find your show of choice

To find a show just tap on Shows and a menu will appear providing Broadway, Off Broadway and West End shows for you.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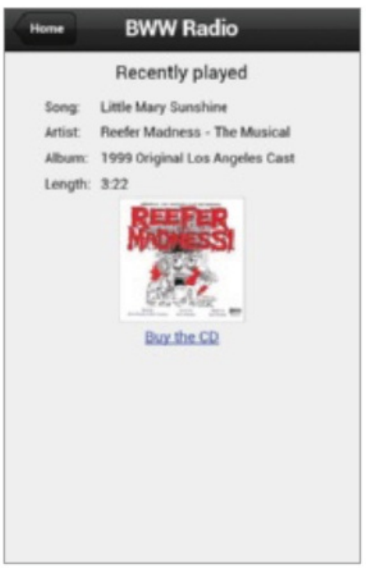
14 hours ago
Photo Flash: First Look at La Jolla Playhouse's Re-Imagined SIDE SHOW!
16 hours ago
BWW Exclusive: Counting Down to Jennifer Ashley Tepper's UNTOLD STORIES OF BROADWAY Book - The August Wilson Theatre
16 hours ago
Exclusive Photo Coverage: Laura Osnes, Santino Fontana & CINDERELLA Cast Record Carols For A Cure
21 hours ago
BWW TV Exclusive: Chatting with the Cast of THE JACKSONIAN on Opening Night- Ed Harris, Bill Pullman, Amy Madigan & More!
24 hours ago
BWW TV Exclusive: CUTTING-EDGE COMPOSERS CORNER- Tituss Burgess Sings 'I'll Be Alright'
2 days ago
Jon Cryer Starts 'Twitter War' Over Role of 'Bobby' in COMPANY

2: Up-to-date theatre news

Stay up-to-date with the latest shows, and theatre gossip in the Top News section. You'll always be in the know with this regularly updated feed.



3: Broadway World Radio

This app includes a radio player, playing songs from all the great musicals. You can also buy the CD from which the track is playing.

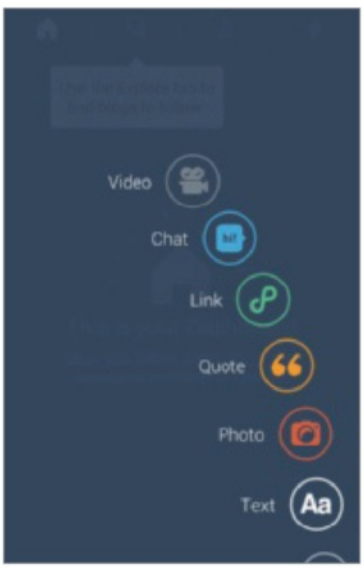
Have your say online

Use the internet to share your thoughts and opinions with the world wide community

Blogging can really be about anything, but primarily it's about you sharing your life, or opinions with the online community. Some people have even been able to make a career out of it. You could write a daily diary, an opinion blog that giving your thoughts on world events, your local area, or just your progress playing a game or with a weight loss program. There are several websites that allow you to sign up for free and give you the capability to set up and design your own website and blog; it's simple and easy, and once done gives you a platform to have your opinions heard by millions of people.

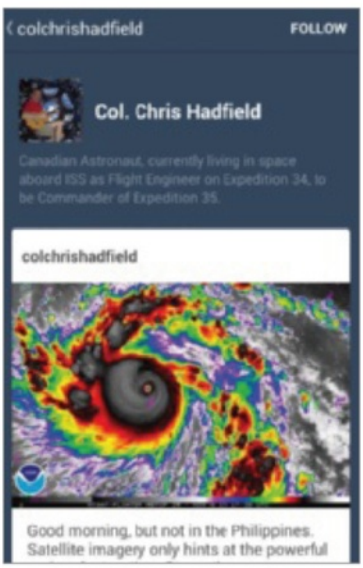
Add text, images, video and music to your blog from anywhere

App used: Tumblr
Price: Free
Developer: Tumblr



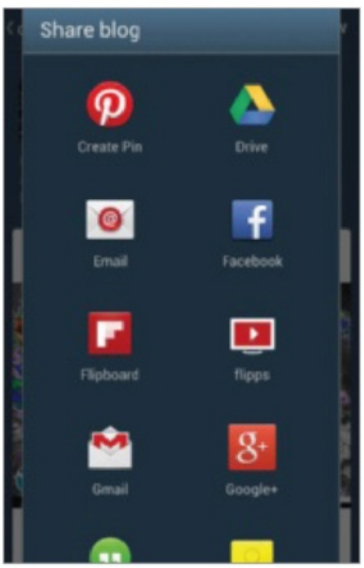
1: Media in your blog

Tumblr is a hugely successful blogging platform. From either your mobile device or a computer, you can share numerous amounts of media with the world.


colchrishadfield
FOLLOW
Col. Chris Hadfield
Canadian Astronaut, currently living in space aboard ISS as Flight Engineer on Expedition 34, to be Commander of Expedition 35.
colchrishadfield
Good morning, but not in the Philippines. Satellite imagery only hints at the powerful

2: Follow trending blogs

You can follow blogs that interest you on Tumblr, but you can also discover what's new in the Trending Blogs section, and expand your horizons.



3: Share your discoveries

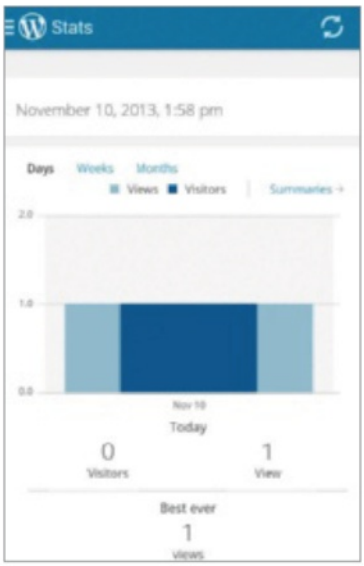
Found something you have to share with others? Just tap the Share icon and you'll be presented with a series of options in which to share your post.

Stay up-to-date with your web traffic and comments

App used: WordPress

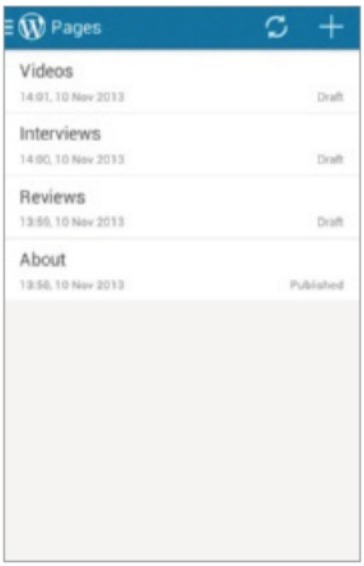
Price: Free

Developer: Automattic, Inc



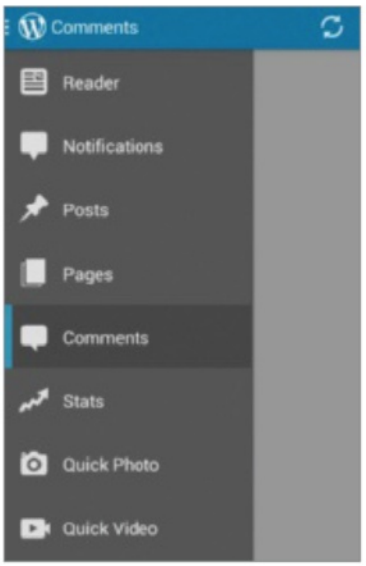
1: View your stats

WordPress provides you with the ability to see the viewing stats for your blog, where the viewer came from, and even filter by country.



2: Add pages to your site

Whilst many blogs are just a scrolling page of text, WordPress allows you to add pages from your mobile device to keep your blog in order.



3: Keep track of comments

From time to time, people may comment on your blog, you can keep track of what they say and approve comments whilst on the move.

A simple, fast, and effective way to update your blogs remotely

App used: Blogger

Price: Free

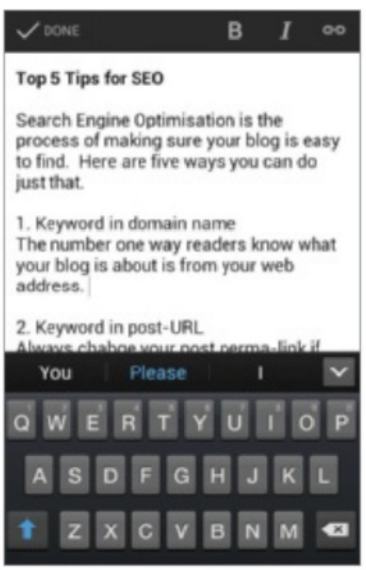
Developer: Google Inc.

1: Make a blog post

Blogger is so simple, you can post from anywhere at any time. There's really no reason not to update your blog when you have a spare minute.

2: Draft and post later

Had a great idea but don't want to publish now? Save as a draft and return to it later, on your mobile device or your computer, it'll be there waiting.


DONE
Top 5 Tips for SEO
Search Engine Optimisation is the process of making sure your blog is easy to find. Here are five ways you can do just that.
1. Keyword in domain name
The number one way readers know what your blog is about is from your web address.
2. Keyword in post-URL

1: Embed a photo

See something you simply must share? You can take a photo directly from Blogger and instantly insert it into your blog post and upload it.

Get in shape and start running

Fitness apps are a great way to get in shape and to train for an upcoming race

Training for a race has never been an easy affair. Having to track your times, your routes, linking your training to your eating plan, it can all be very complicated. Luckily there are several apps now available that will do all of this for you.

By using the GPS location of your phone, most fitness apps can track where you are, how fast you have run, how hard you have worked based on altitude and some can even give you a map of where you ran, and which parts of the run were your fastest and which were your slowest.

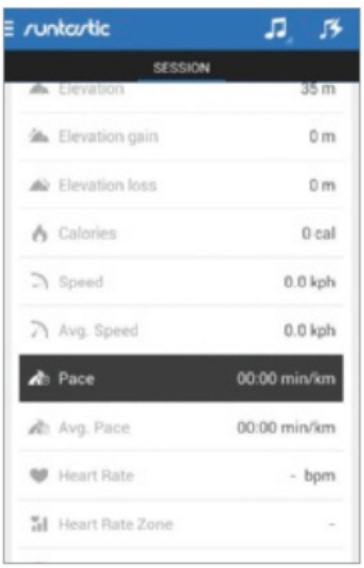
Many fitness apps also link with nutritional apps, so if you are watching your weight, you can link the two for a fully comprehensive look at your fitness plan.

Track your distance and speed, and race yourself for the ultimate competition

App used: Runtastic PRO

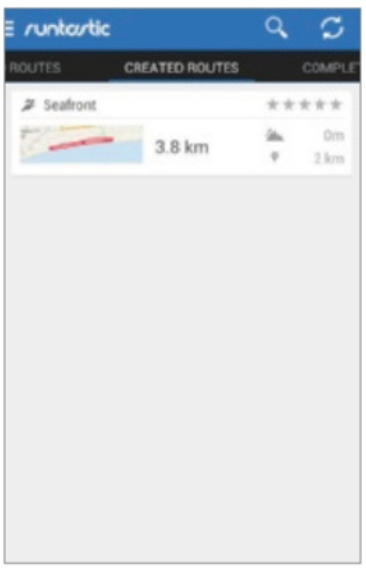
Price: £4.99/$4.99

Developer: Runtastic



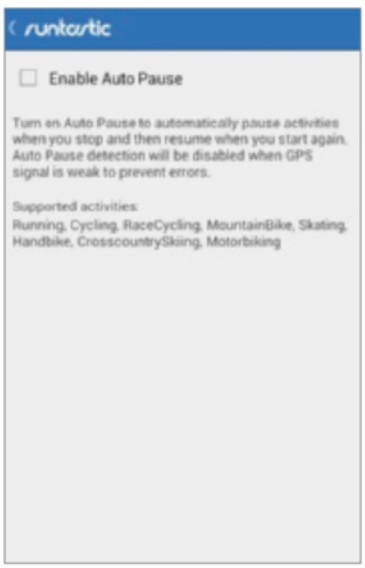
1: Set Your pace

Manually set your own pace for the track you wish to run. Runtastic will notify you if you are off pace to ensure you keep the pace.



2: Plan your route

Plan your route with Google Maps from within Runtastic's web client. It will automatically sync with the app. Plan and keep to your route.


runtastic
Enable Auto Pause
Turn on Auto Pause to automatically pause activities when you stop and then resume when you start again. Auto Pause detection will be disabled when GPS signal is weak to prevent errors.
Supported activities:
Running, Cycling, RaceCycling, MountainBike, Skating, Handbike, CrosscountrySkiing, Motorbiking

3: Auto pause

Don't worry about pausing the app when you bump into someone or cross a road. The app notices if you stop moving and will pause for you.

Match your music to your run – use rhythm to drive you on!

App used: Recordbeater

Price: Free

Developer: Ole Pedersen

1: Match music to workout

Recordbeater will detect the rhythm of your movement and match music to your workout accordingly. The beat can also be changed in the settings.

2: From zero to hero

Recordbeater comes with an introductory program for those that are just starting out. Exercise has never been easier!

3: Custom interval training

Create your own interval training workout from as little as 50 metres to 12 miles! Pre-select your music and pause lengths and you're away.

Get fit whilst running for your life!

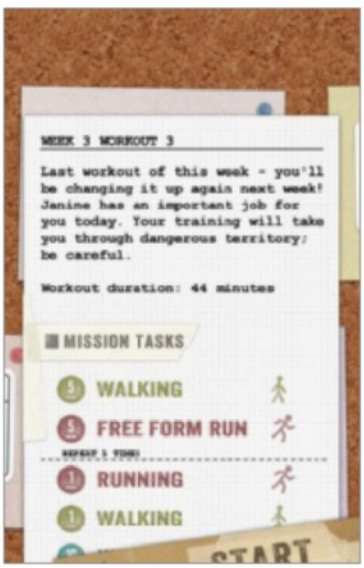
App used: Zombies, Run! 5K Training

Price: £1.49/$1.99

Developer: Six to Start

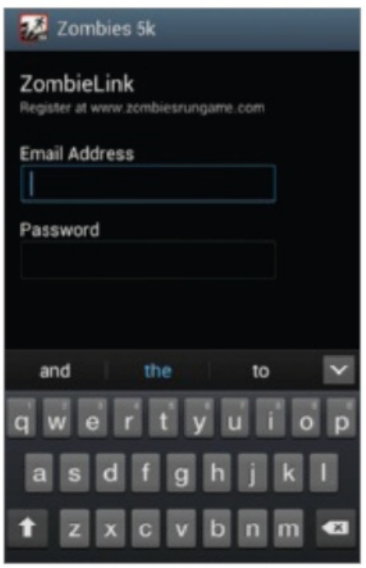
1: Live a story

A unique app where you listen to and take part in the story of a zombie apocalypse. When you hear zombies coming, you will most definitely run!


WEEK 3 WORKOUT 3
Last workout of this week - you'll be changing it up again next week! Janine has an important job for you today. Your training will take you through dangerous territory; be careful.
Workout duration: 44 minutes
MISSION TASKS
WALKING
FREE FORM RUN
RUNNING
WALKING
START

2: 8 week training plan

The app provides a structured run via the story, but also a stretching and warm down section, all whilst listening to your own music.



3: Build a base

Whilst running from zombies you will pick up useful items automatically, sign in to Zombielink and build your base to hold back the undead hordes!

Make a collage of your pictures

Use your mobile device to create a stunning collage of pictures

With a camera attached to nearly every mobile device, never before have so many pictures been taken. Special moments, family fun, stunning scenery or just simply a wayward sign, everyone has photos... a lot of them.

A great way to share all of your pictures is to put them altogether in a collage. This is not only a nice effect, it also enables you to show off many of your beloved photos at once.

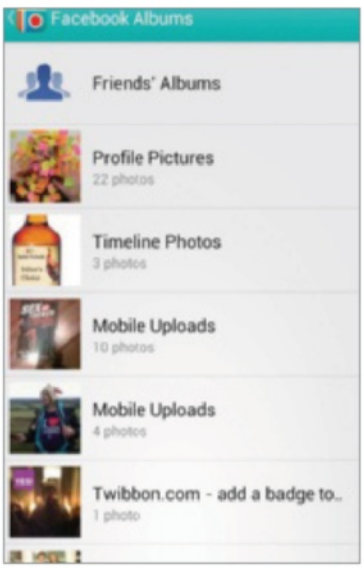
It's now never been easier to create a collage. No longer do you need powerful photo editing software, or an expensive computer, you can do it all on your mobile device, and print, email, or share your creation to a social network.

Create collages with your photos, Facebook images and Google Search images

App used: Pic Collage

Price: Free

Developer: Cardinal Blue Software

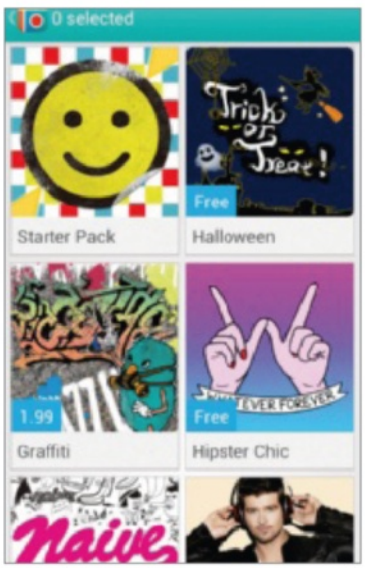


1: Use pictures from Facebook

Select photos from your Facebook albums to add to the collage with just two taps of your finger.

2: Change the background

You don't have to have the stock canvas colour as your collage background, you can choose from several backgrounds already provided.



3: Add odd extras

You can add stickers to your collage too. The app comes with a starter pack that includes moustaches, rainbows, stars and more...

Use templates to create collages of your pictures and share them

App used: InstaPicFrame for Instagram

Price: Free

Developer: Tiny Piece Co., Ltd

1: Use templates

Instead of just throwing all your pictures on a board together, use templates to create orderly collages of your photos.

2: Live collage

Use Live Collages to take photos from your mobile device's camera directly into a pre-made template to create a collage live, right there and then.

3: Choose your own frame

Rather than have a straight border around your collage, you have can pick from a number of different borders to liven up your collage.

Create collages from Dropbox, Facebook or Instagram, as well as your camera

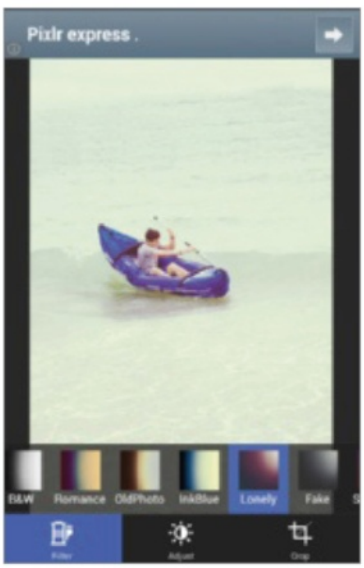
App used: Photo Grid – Collage Maker

Price: Free

Developer: RoidApp

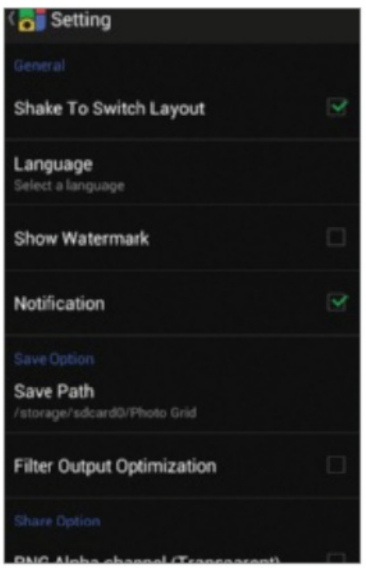
1: Change your collage quickly

No need to move your photos around, simply shake your device and photos will re-organise into a new collage.



2: Add filters to images

With Photo Grid, you can add filters to images after you have taken them, as well as crop, adjust brightness and other nifty editing tools.



3: Manually add a folder

If you store all your images on an external SD card, Photo Grid lets you choose a specific folder within your device to select pictures from.

Get help with your pregnancy

Your device is all you need to ensure a smooth nine months

Pregnancy may be daunting but it's also an exciting time. With your Samsung device, you can make the very most of it, offering up a range of apps that will deliver you daily top tips, help you chart your pregnancy's progress and even let you take snaps of your belly and share its growth with other people.

Indeed, your Android device can help you to make sense of the whole nine months with a countdown to the big day and even assistance on choosing a well-meaning name for your child.

And at the end of it, you will be better informed and able to look back at this life-changing and life-creating moment with a smile.

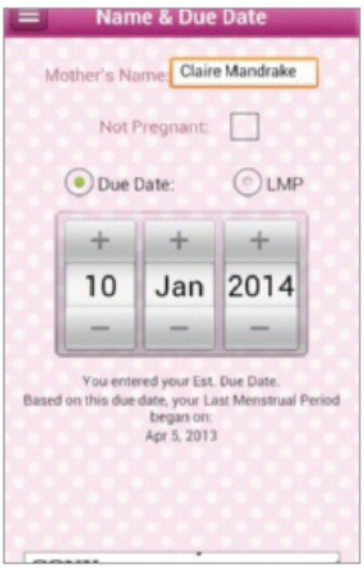
© Thinkstock

Track and share your pregnancy progress with family and friends

App used: BabyBump Pregnancy

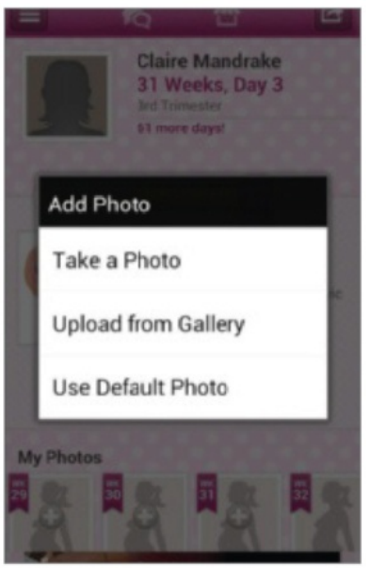
Price: Free

Developer: Alt12 Apps, Inc



1: Add your details

After registering, tap the menu option in the left hand corner of the screen. Select Settings and Name & Due Date. Input your name and expecting date.



2: Add photos

Tap the '+ photo' icon to take a shot of your belly to chart your baby's growth using your device's camera or select from the phone or BabyBump gallery.

3: Share your progress

There are tips for each day of your pregnancy and a countdown to your due date. Tap the top-right Share icon to share your progress.

Choose a baby name and discover exactly what it means

App used: My Baby Names & Meanings

Price: Free

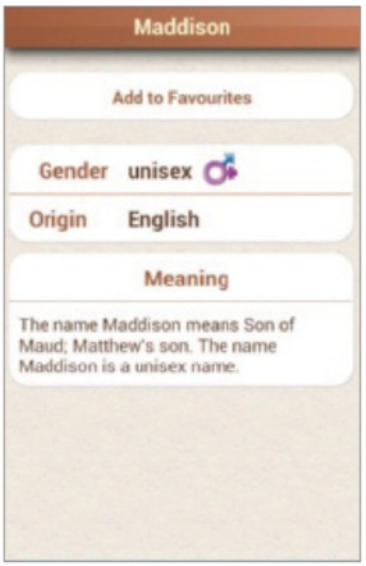
Developer: Avi Tech

1: Search by name or origin

Choose whether you want to search through all of the names in the database or whether to select them by origin. Tap your choice.

2: Find a name

The pink and blue icons show you whether the name is for a girl or a boy. You can use the search facility at the top of the screen or simply scroll.


Maddison
Add to Favourites
Gender unisex
Origin English
Meaning
The name Maddison means Son of Maud; Matthew's son. The name Maddison is a unisex name.

3: Discover its meaning

Search by origin to select various cultures and countries. Tap a name to show its origin, gender and meaning. You can add it to your favourites.

Set up a countdown timer for your baby's birth

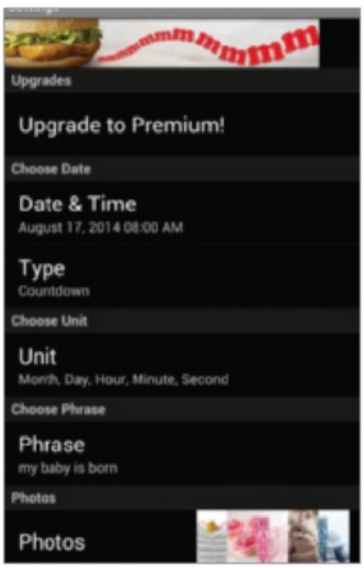
App used: Baby Countdown Widget

Price: Free

Developer: Sevenlogics, INC

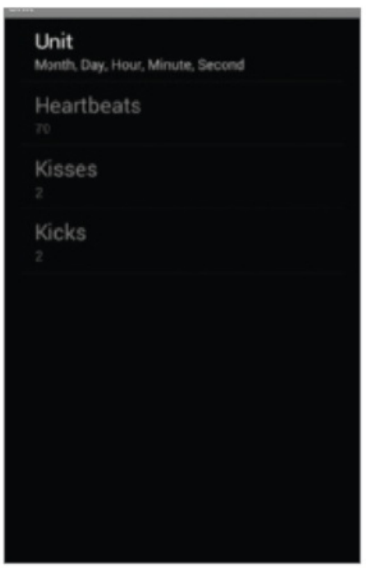
1: Delve into settings

In the Baby Countdown app you will see a countdown. Tailor it to your pregnancy by selecting the menu option and taping Setting.



2: Select the date

The Setting screen includes the type of countdown and the phrase to use when the baby is born. Select Date first and input when your baby is due.



3: Choose a unit

Once you have selected a date, tap Unit from the main Setting screen. You can countdown in heartbeats, kisses or kicks if you wish, for some added fun.

Plan out your business

Maximise your potential for making money using your Samsung Galaxy device

We spend most of our lives working so it is always worthwhile maximising the skills that you have and continue to learn in order to make the most of your day. Who knows, it may lead to a much-deserved promotion or a raise.

With your Android device to hand, you can leapfrog colleagues by gaining lots of extra knowledge, much of it particularly useful if you are setting up or running a business or your own.

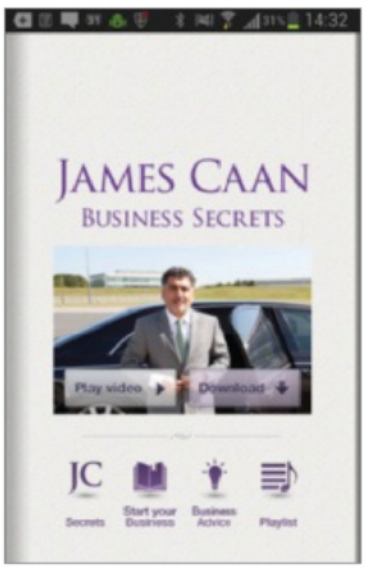
There are apps that dish out lots of essential information, others that let you sketch out a winning business plan and those that help you to cope with most of the situations that working life will throw at you.

Get advice from an experienced business hand

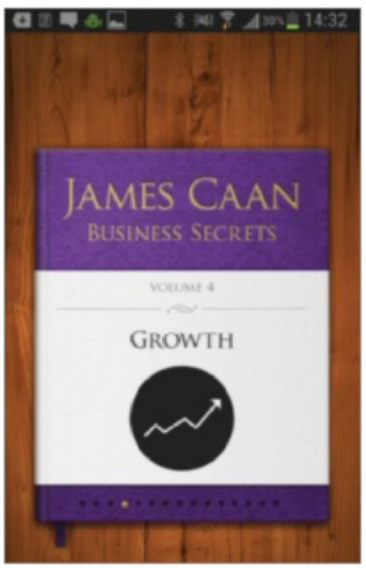
App used: James Caan Business Secrets

Price: Free

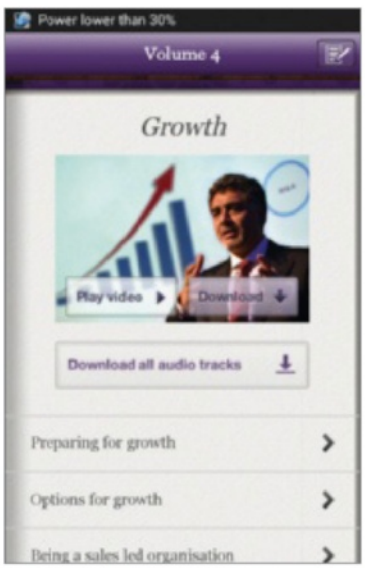
Developer: Sulata.Mobi



1: Discover some secrets
From the main home screen you can select whether you want to delve into James Caan's secrets or listen to the audiobook of his autobiography.



2: Select a subject
There are eight subjects from People & Hiring and Raising Money to Overseas Expansion. Within each subject there are over 100 secrets to choose from.



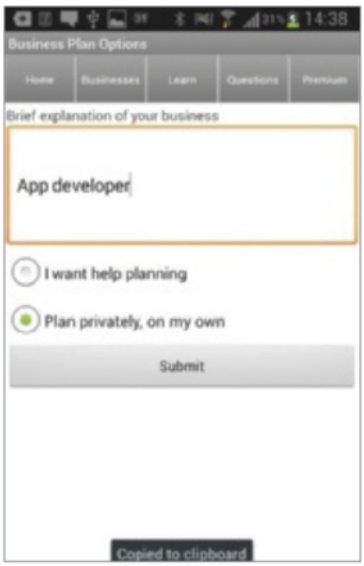
3: Download audio track
You can listen to or watch a secret, as well as read an extract. Audio tracks can be downloaded and you can also share secrets on Twitter and Facebook.

Produce a business plan with step-by-step help

App used: Business Plan & Start Startup

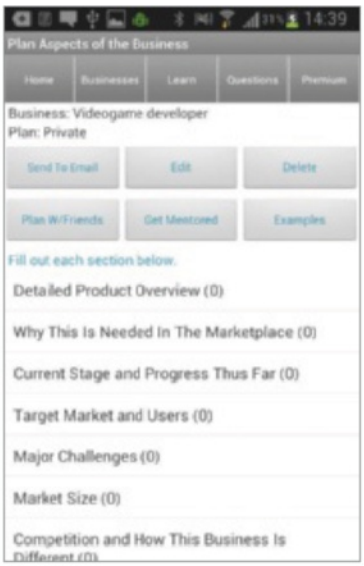
Price: Free

Developer: Alex Genadinik



1: Plan your business

Select Plan Your Business in the main menu. You can also read guides to company planning. Detail your business and select if you need help.


Plan Aspects of the Business
Business: Videogame developer
Plan: Private
Fill out each section below.
Detailed Product Overview (0)
Why This Is Needed In The Marketplace (0)
Current Stage and Progress Thus Far (0)
Target Market and Users (0)
Major Challenges (0)
Market Size (0)
Competition and How This Business Is

2: See the business plan

A list of sections relevant to your chosen business type will be shown. You can plan with friends or go down the list and select each section.

Discuss This Aspect of The Project
Learn About Product Strategy
Discuss: Why This Is Needed In The Marketplace
Submit
Back To Business
Instructions: To edit, tap comments. To scroll, slide.
This section is empty.

3: Insert relevant details

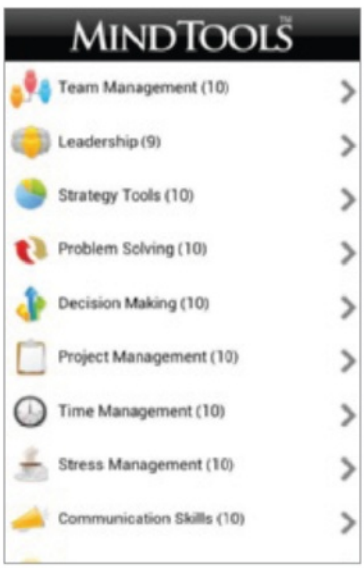
Tap each section to view an input box. Insert details of your business relevant to each subject box, then select Submit in order to enter it in your plan.

Build up your business skills and develop your career

App used: Mind Tools

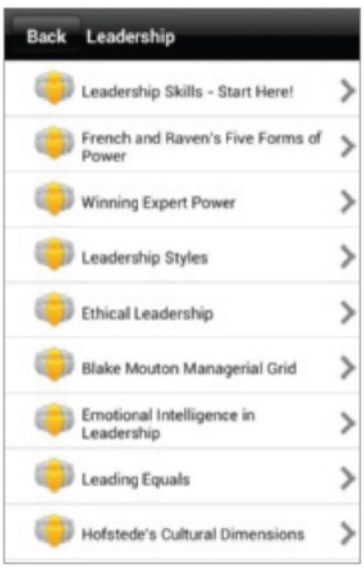
Price: Free

Developer: Mind Tools Ltd.



1: Choose a skill

Identify which area of business you need assistance with, be it leadership, problem solving, decision making or career skills and select the option.



2: Select an area

Each section has a series of sub-categories which will narrow down to a particular solution to a problem. Tap them to open.

Back Ethical Leadership
Ethical Leadership
Doing the right thing
Know in advance what you'd do.
© iStockphoto
We've seen some high profile ethical failures in the press in recent years. The devastation caused by

3: Read and understand

The sub-categories have articles, including top tips, each delivering the most relevant information to you. You can also share articles with others.

Take it easy

Use your device to relax and feel good about yourself

Life is stressful. There is work to be done, chores to carry out, relationships to worry about and all of these can take their toll. Your Samsung device, however, can quickly become your most trusted friend with a range of apps available that can take the strain away and enable you to take it easy.

Whether you want to engage in a yoga session or create your own virtual zen garden or whether you want to ping away those anxieties by engaging in some breathing exercises that don't leave you gasping for air, your device will be able to get you in a great state, ready for a good night's sleep or a bit of zest for the rest of the day.

© Thinkstock

Strike a pose and relax with a yoga masterclass on your device

App used: All-in YOGA: 300 Poses

Price: £1.24/$1.99

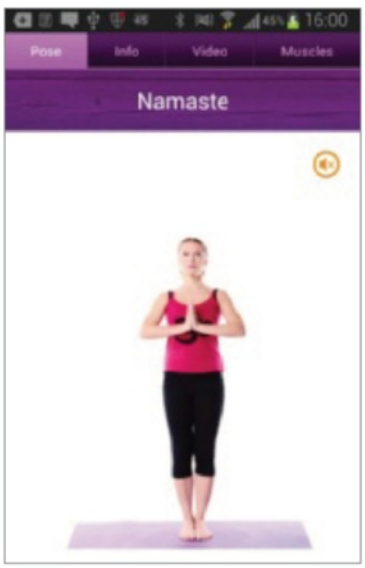
Developer: viaden mobile

1: Select program or pose

In Pose Base search through a range of yoga poses or tap My Programs to choose a pre-designed program. Both have photos, video and audio.

2: Yoga programs

Choose a program from Quick Recipes, a personal yoga teacher or Fast Mode where you can produce your own routine. Tap your program.



3: Follow the pose

You will see the pose you need to recreate. Tap Video to see it in action, Muscles to see which are being used and Info for more about the pose.

Create a peaceful, fulfilling, sweeping zen garden on your device

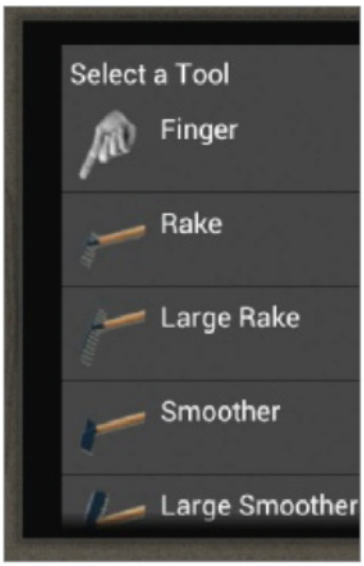
App used: Zen Garden

Price: £1.85/$2.99

Developer: EasyLivin Apps

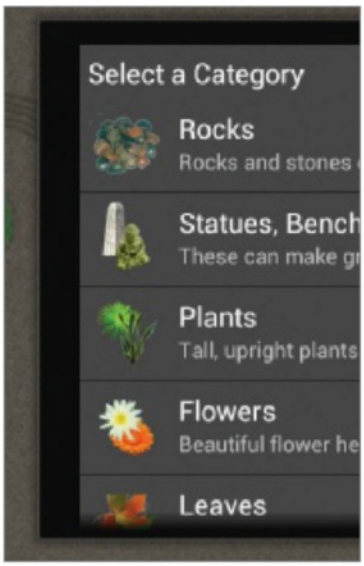
1: A blank canvas

There is little more peaceful than an empty garden. Here you can produce and play with your own dry landscape, raking the sand and adding objects.



2: Select a tool

Tap the menu option in the bottom right-hand corner and select a tool which includes a finger, stick or rakes. Tap one and move around the screen.



3: Select a category

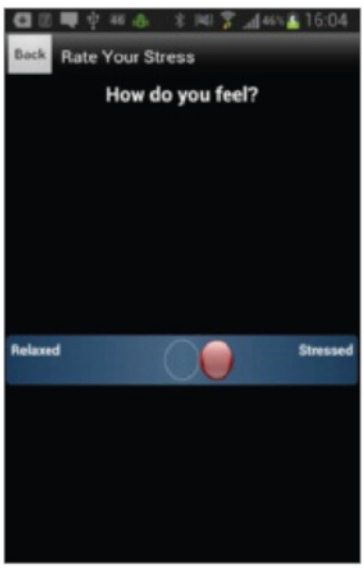
In the menu option in the bottom left-hand corner, select rocks, statues, plants, flowers, and other objects to build up your peaceful garden.

Control your breathing and use it to help you to relax

App used: Breathe2Relax

Price: Free

Developer: T2

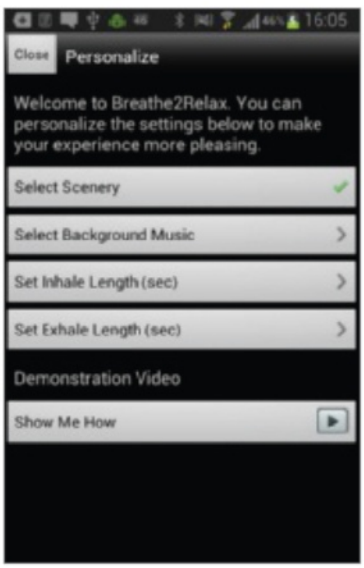


1: How do you feel?

When starting the app's breathing exercises, it will ask you how you feel. Move the slider to the level of relaxation or stress that you are feeling.

2: Start to breathe

The app will then instruct you on how best to breathe for the exercise in hand. Watch the bar to the left of the screen and follow the exercise.



3: Personalise the app

Tap Personalize, to choose background music, scenery and control inhalation and exhalation levels. You can also view an instructional video.

Learn to read music

Understand notes and define musical terms without needing an instrument

Do you want to be a rock star? Or do you just want to be able to play music to a decent level and improve your musical skills? Even when you do not have your instruments to hand, you are able to keep up the practice and become a better player. Your Samsung Galaxy has many fun apps that can assist you in the ability to read music.

Instead of trying to commit notes to memory, you can enjoy learning as part of a game. You can also instantly see what musical terms mean without having to resort to lots of web searches or flicking through a book. Samsung Galaxy devices are more than equipped to be a handy pocket or bag-sized musical accompaniment and are perfect for everyone, no matter their ability.

Practise your music sight reading abilities in a fun way

App used:
Note Trainer (Sight Reading)

Price: £1/$1.49

Developer:
Big Box Labs

1: Chose the music

Tap Play (or decide to practice first). Select the type of music you want to play from bass and treble with options for sharps and flats.

2: Start to play

As the notes move along the screen, hit the corresponding key. Your score will increase for each correct note and you will be penalised for wrong ones.

3: Find your score

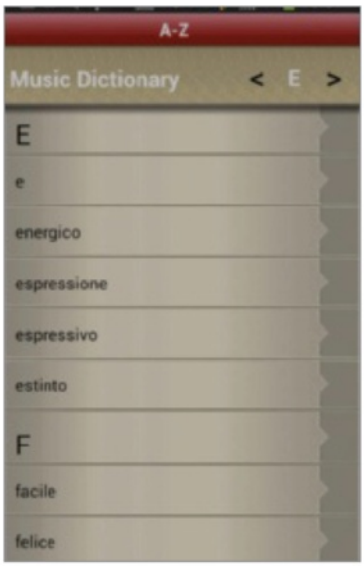
At the end of the game, you will see your results and have the option to try again. You should continue to improve in a natural and engaging process.

Understand just what those Italian musical words actually mean

App used: Music Dictionary

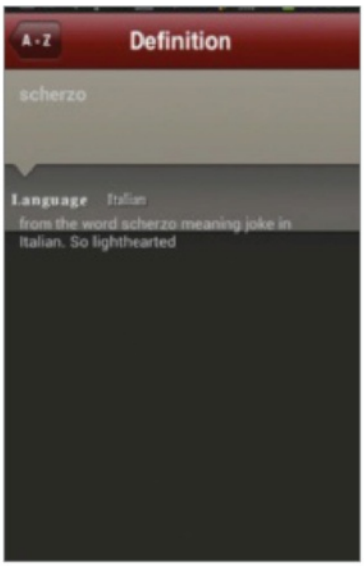
Price: £0.99/$1.49

Developer: JJPartridge



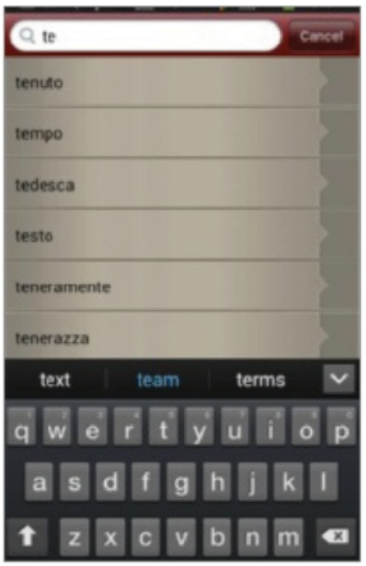
1: Find a term

There are more than 500 musical words in Italian ready to be discovered and defined. Simply find the word that you want by scrolling down the list.



2: See the definition

When you tap on the word to be defined, it will call up the definition screen. It will tell you the language and it will also interpret in English.



3: Perform a search

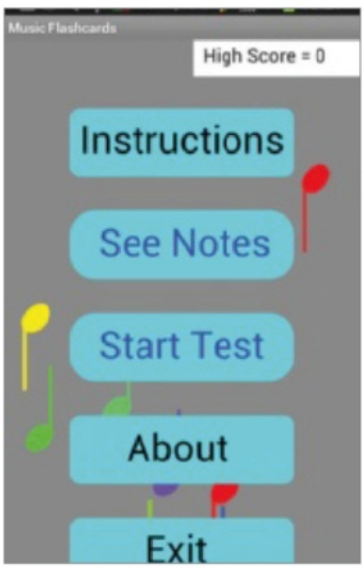
You can also manually search for a musical term. Tap the menu option in the bottom right-hand corner and type in your term.

Learn how to read notes in the treble and bass clefs

App used: Music Flashcards

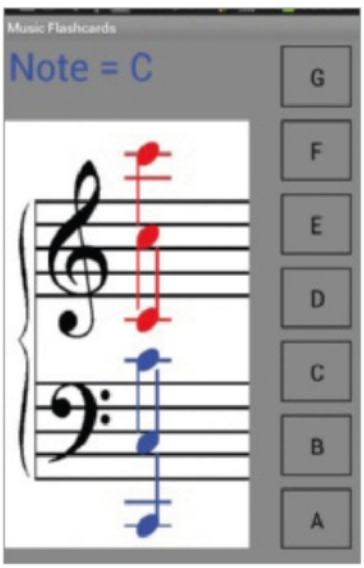
Price: Free

Developer: Newton's Apple LLC



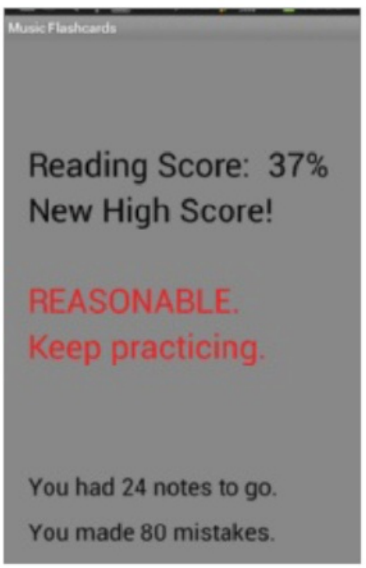
1: Recognise notes

In this educational game, you need to recognise 38 different notes in under a minute. Only by with practise will you know them all. Tap Start Test.



2: Identify the notes

Each note is shown on the left with the range of letters denoting the potential note it may be on the right. Tap the note to move to the next one.



3: See your score

At the end of each session, you can see how many mistakes you made as well as your reading score and overall status. This will help you to improve.

Learn a new language

Discover three great apps that can help you learn a brand new language

A proven technique to help people pick up a new language is through interactive learning. That's why your Samsung Galaxy is the perfect device for you to learn from. Your Galaxy comes with the Samsung Learning Hub pre-installed on it. This HUB can be used to download various language courses, where you'll be asked to answer questions and revise what you've learnt so far, helping you progress with your chosen language. You can also learn through lessons using the Duolingo app or if you simply want to do quick translations of the odd phrase or word then why not try out the Google Translation app. We've listed three of the best here.

Complete an entire language course using Samsung's Learning Hub

App used: Samsung Hub

Price: Free

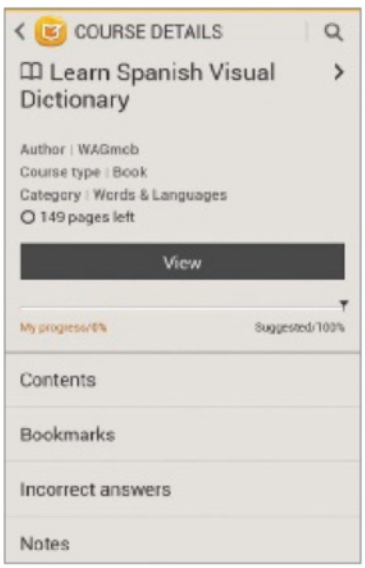
Developer: Samsung

1: Find a language course

Open the Samsung Hub app. Go to the Samsung Learning Hub, tap Learning to open the Hub. Tap the search icon and search for a language.

2: Download your course

Tap Start Course in the details window of a course then tap View to download the course to your device and any multimedia content included.

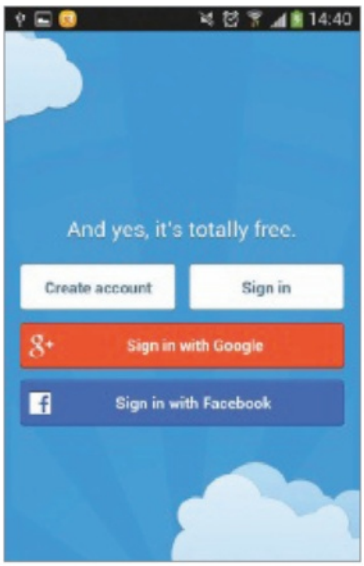


3: Review your progress

Access your courses in the Samsung Hub Purchased window. Review your progress by tapping Incorrect Answers in the details window.

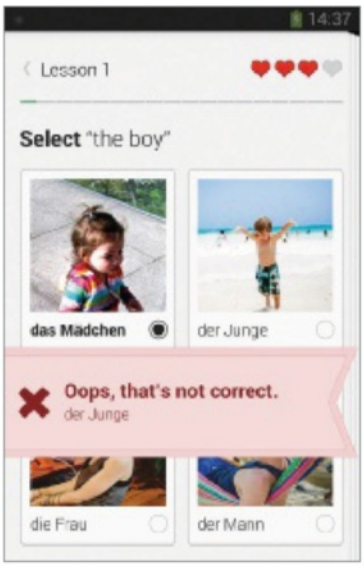
Learn a language using Duolingo's fun and interactive language app

App used: Duolingo
Price: Free
Developer: Duolingo



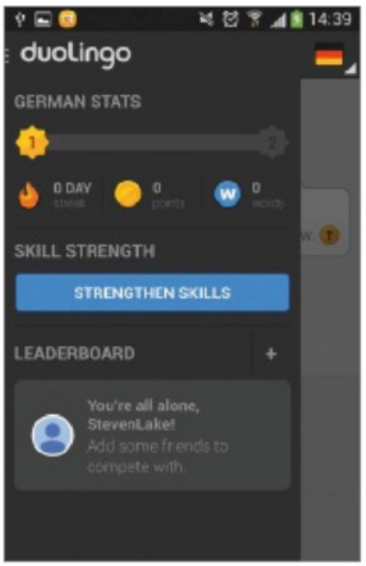
1: Login to Duolingo

You can register an account with Duolingo or sign in via Google or Facebook. Logging in via a social network allows you to share progress.



2: Having a lesson

Once you've selected a language you will begin lesson 1. You will be given four 'lives', one will be lost every time you get an answer incorrect.



3: Progress and stats

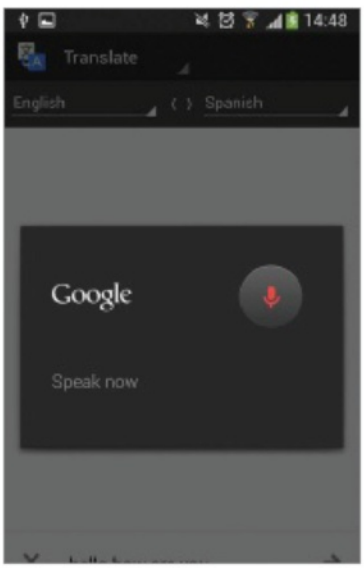
You can review your progress from the Stats menu accessible via the main menu. You can also create leader boards with other users.

Translate on the spot with voice or text using Google Translate

App used: Google Translate
Price: Free
Developer: Google

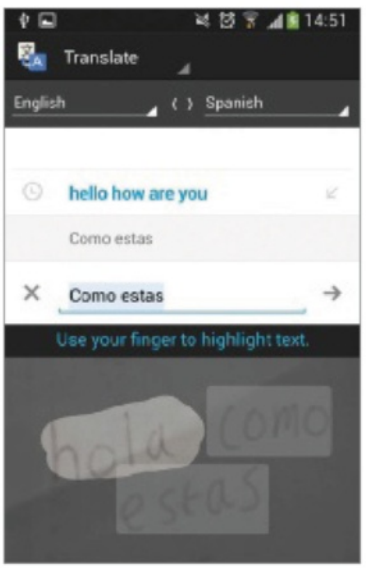
1: Basic translation

Select a starting and translation language. Tap the speaker to hear the translation spoken. You can also view different words to the one you typed.



2: Voice Translation

Tap the microphone icon and say a word or phrase and it will be translated. Tap the pen icon to hand write a word for translated.



3: Translate with images

Tap the camera icon and point your camera at a written word. You can use your finger to identify the words to the app. They'll then be translated for you.

Hacks

Adapt your Samsung Galaxy device to meet your needs

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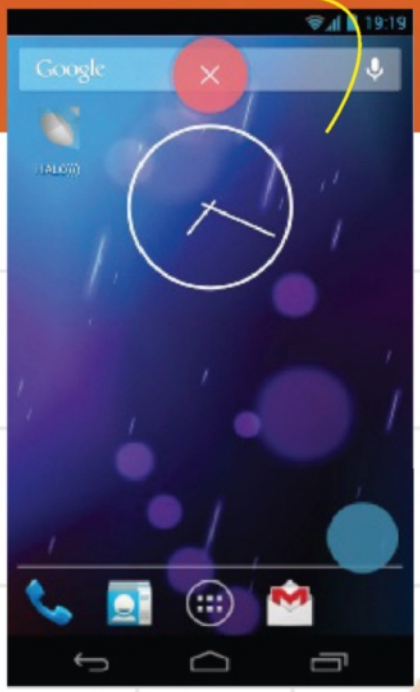
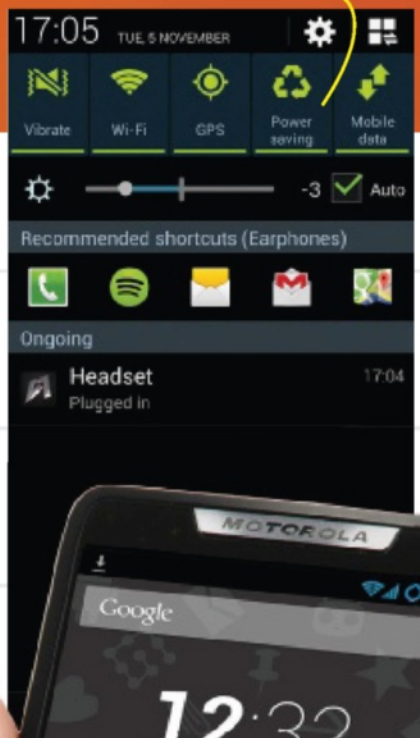
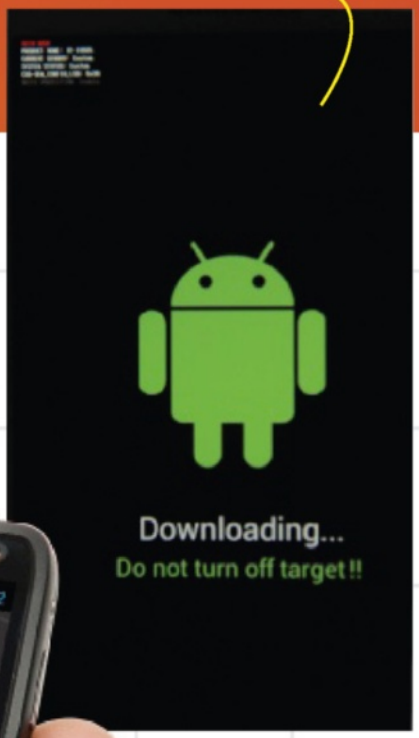
146 Flash a custom ROM to enhance your audio

148 Install and customise the MoDaCo ROM

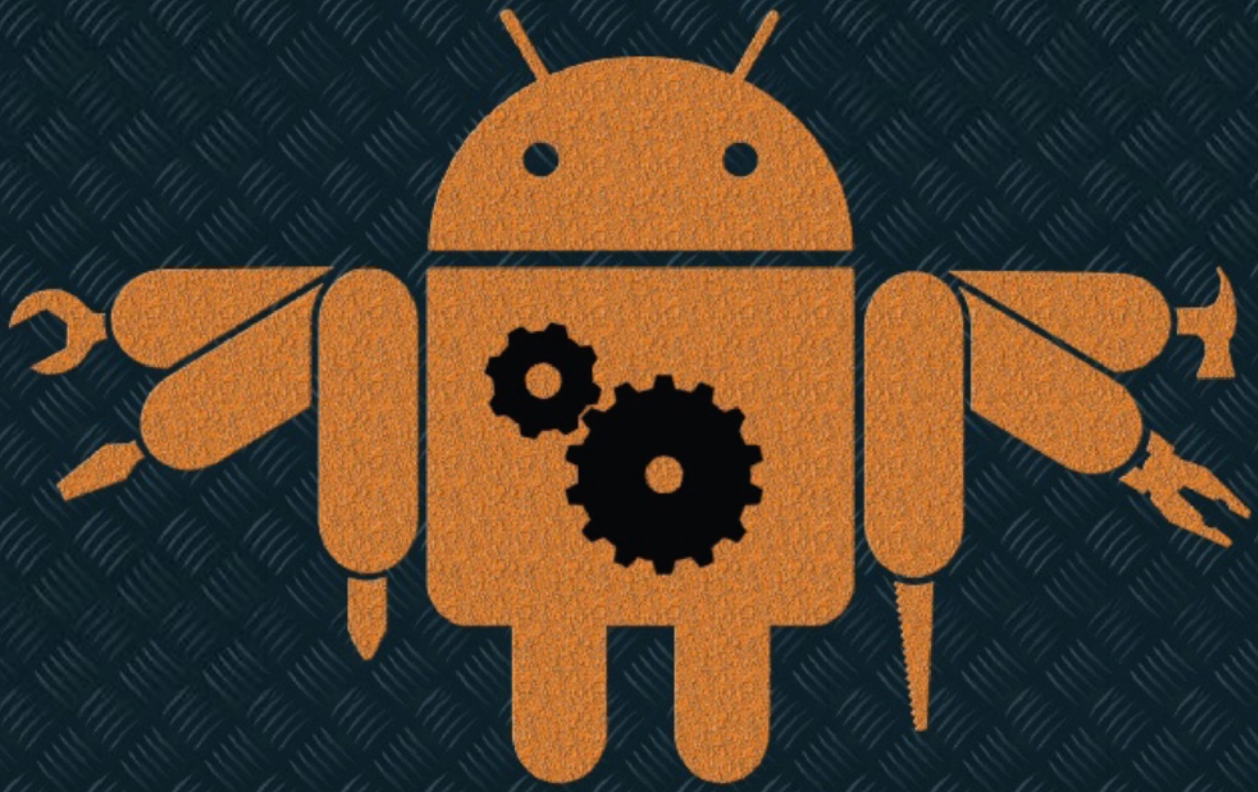






HOT HACKS

- ✔ Cook a ROM
- ✔ Boost memory
- ✔ Fix wrong hacks
- ✔ Create widgets
- ✔ Expand storage



10 ESSENTIAL HACKS AND MODS

Practical hacks to help you get more from your phone or tablet

1 Root your phone with one-click

Rooting an Android device is a process that differs from one model to the next, and can be done using methods of differing levels of complexity. The simplest way to root is by using a one-click tool. These utilise an app that either runs directly on your device or via a USB connection to your desktop. The benefits to these is that you don't require any real knowledge of what is going on and that they are quick and safe. In most cases they will not install a custom recovery as part of the process, so you will need to install ROM Manager and do this yourself before you're able to start flashing any ROMs or mods.

Framaroot
Framaroot can be downloaded from bit.ly/145lfjs and works for many Galaxy, Motorola and LG devices. It runs on the phone and gives you the choice of exploits to try and root with. Pick one and see what happens.

Root Transmission
Download Root Transmission from **bit.ly/13D0g9j.** This tool enables you to root a phone using another rooted device. The rooted device needs to have USB On-The-Go capability and is a useful tool when you don't have access to your computer. Works with many Galaxy and Asus devices.

SuperOneClick
Available from **shortfuse.org**, this legendary app enjoys wide device support and runs natively on Windows or Ubuntu-based machines. Enable USB debugging on your device and ensure you've installed the drivers for your computer. Then click Root.

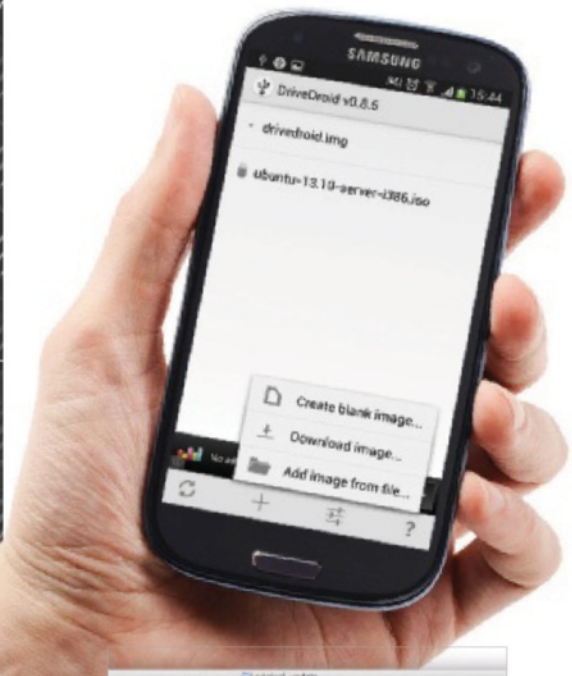
Root_with_Restore
Download from **bit.ly/Scs00l**. It works mostly with Sony devices, but also the Nexus 7 and select models from HTC, LG and Samsung. Download and extract the software and then run it by double-clicking the RunMe.bat icon. Now just follow the onscreen instructions.

2 Tweak your own custom ROM

Add your own selection of apps to your favourite custom ROM

If you're into hacking Android, you will no doubt have explored the world of custom ROMs. With dozens available for almost every device you can normally find one that you like. Yet what happens if you cannot find your perfect ROM? The answer: make your own. Android is an open source operating system, and the open source ethos runs firmly throughout the Android hacking community. You can pick a ROM that you like, and further tweak and tailor so that it meets your needs.

It is complicated, though, and starting from scratch requires you to be a developer or keen to learn. The best place to start is with 'Kitchen' apps that enable you to take a ROM and repackage it. We're using dsixda's Android Kitchen, which runs on Windows, Linux and Mac, and can modify shipped ROMs, custom ROMs or your own Nandroid backups. You can add or remove apps and make other tweaks, including using your own scripts.

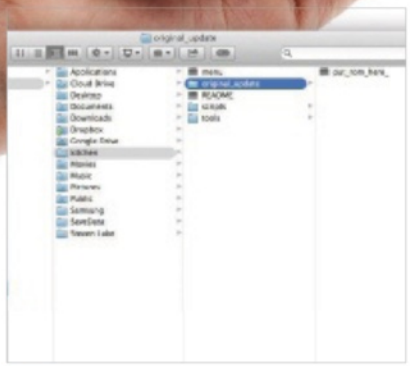


1 Prepare the tools

To begin, download and install dsixda's Android Kitchen. Depending on whether you're using Windows, Mac or Linux you may need to download a few other things as well in order for it to work. Follow the FAQs at **bit.ly/Xks0xs** for the full details.

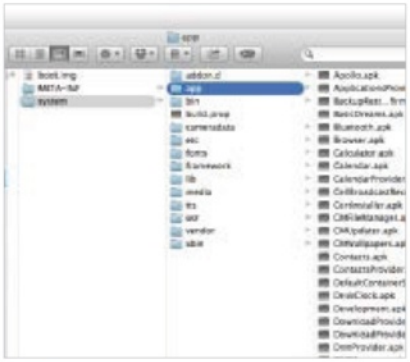
2 Run the kitchen

To launch, unzip it and open up a Terminal or command line prompt. The commands differ depending on the OS. Change to the kitchen directory using the command 'cd' followed by the path to the kitchen folder. Type ./menu to launch.



3 Import base ROM

Locate your source ROM or Nandroid backup that you have copied from your phone. You can use this to add or remove apps. To import it to the kitchen, drag and drop the ROM into 'original_update' in the Kitchen directory.



4 Add and remove

ROMs often feature apps you don't need, and lack those you do. You can add or remove apps by adding or deleting the .apk file in the system/app folder in the WORKING_myrom directory. It's an easy way to customise your ROM's features.

5 ZipAlign the APKs

After adding new apps you'll need to zip align them. This optimises the apps, and will improve performance. In the Kitchen menu, press 5 and Enter, and then 'Y'. Use option 23 to check for any errors. You can now rebuild and flash the ROM.

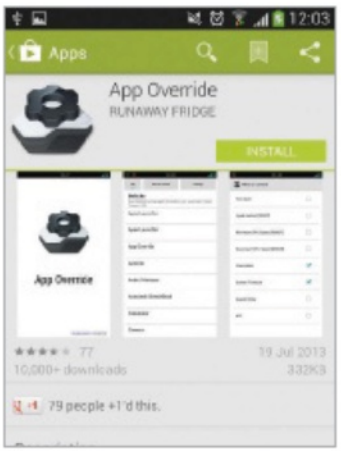
3 Override settings for each app

App Override enables you to configure a number of system settings on a per-app basis, letting you take control of your apps

App Override by Runaway Fridge (currently in Beta testing and free to download from the Play store) is an application that enables you to configure a growing number of system settings including Screen Orientation, Font Size, Input method, Screen Timeout, Minimum CPU Speed, Maximum CPU Speed, Sound Mode and Wi-fi settings for individual applications. Rather than configuring these settings system wide, App Override will automatically set them as the chosen application is launched and restore them back to the system default when you leave the app.

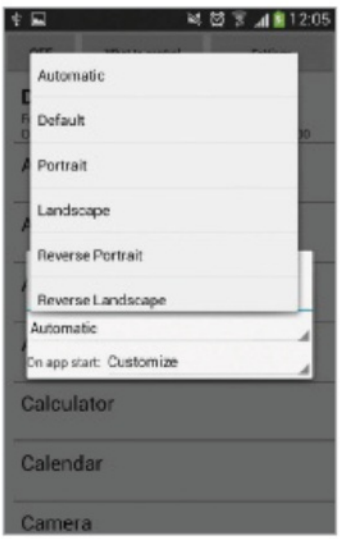
There are often times when you might want to have, for example, a larger sfont size, but not want it to take affect right across your device – and App Override makes that possible. Root access is required for some of the options (currently only Input method, Minimum CPU Speed and Maximum CPU Speed), but if you don't have root access you can still use the application – however your choice of controls will be more limited.

App Override is compatible with all versions of Android from 2.3 Gingerbread onwards and can be switched on and off with a main toggle button. When the application is active, an icon is displayed in the notification area (which can be disabled if you choose to do so). App Override can be started manually or configured to start when your device initially boots up.



1 Download app

Search for App Override in the Play Store and download it. After installing and opening it, you will be presented with your application list. Pressing the toggle button in the top-left labelled Off will enable the application and you'll see a notification icon appear.

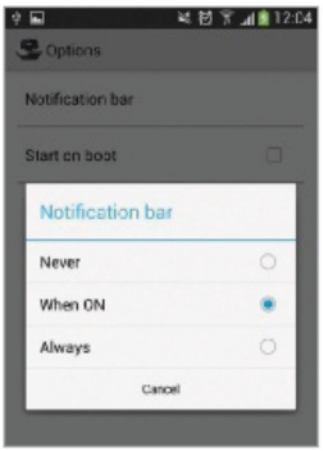


6 Orientation lock

The orientation lock enables you to set a specific device orientation for an app. You are not limited to portrait or landscape – you can also set reverse portrait or reverse landscape, as well as automatic. This could be useful to prevent the browser rotating.

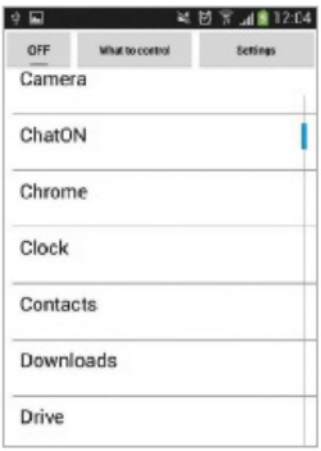
2 What to Control

By default, App Override will only enable you to control Input method, Orientation and Screen Timeout. By pressing the What to Control button you can toggle the other items including Font Size, Minimum CPU Speed, Maximum CPU Speed, and more.



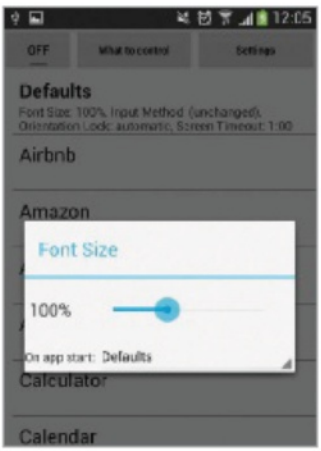
3 Start on boot?

The Settings button lets you choose whether to display a notification bar icon and whether the app should start on boot. While you test and get used to using it, it's best to display the icon when active and not have it start on boot.



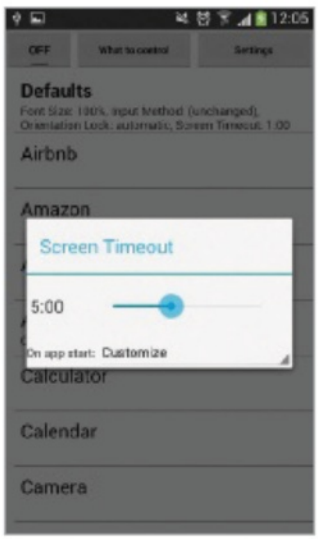
4 First override

The main view gives you a list of your apps. Clicking an app enables you to configure the options you have enabled. For each option you can choose the app's start behaviour – whether to ignore the launch, set to default or customise.



5 Set font size

The Font Size option lets you specify a font size for your app, which might be useful where you are reading a lot of text but the app doesn't let you configure the font size. You can scale the font to 170%, but you can also decrease it to 60%.



7 Screen control

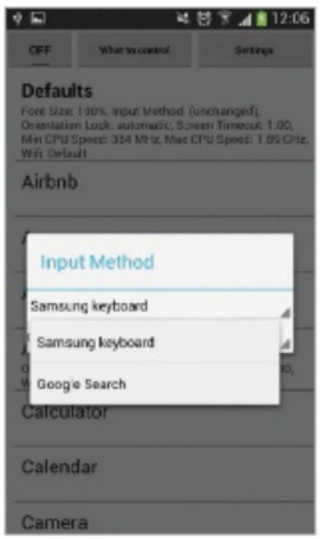
Isn't it frustrating when you're reading on your device and the screen times out? App Override lets you set the screen timeout to a level between 30 seconds and 12 minutes. Be careful – it's easy to accidentally run down your battery.

8 CPU speeds

Provided you have root access on your device, the ability to lock minimum and maximum CPU speeds can be useful. If you have a power-hungry app where you need maximum performance, you can crank up the speed.

9 Toggle Wi-fi

There are a number of ways of managing wi-fi, and including using WiFi-Matic to enable or disable by location. App Override gives an alternative – enabling wi-fi only for specific apps, perhaps ones that might use a lot of your data allowance.



10 Input methods

One of the best things about Android is the ability to use different Input methods. For example, you might want to use App Override to switch to an Emoji-enabled keyboard just for when you're sending instant messages to your friends.

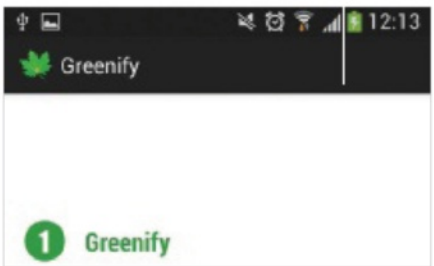
Control your background apps

Sick of apps draining your battery and bandwidth? Download the Greenify app and start managing how your apps power usage

How often do you recharge your Samsung Galaxy device? Daily? Twice a day? Do you need to keep it docked to maintain the charge for when you head out and about? If so, the chances are you have a few apps that are causing problems by working in the background when they should really be resting. The resulting network connections can drain your battery in just a couple of hours, something that can prove both inconvenient and costly.

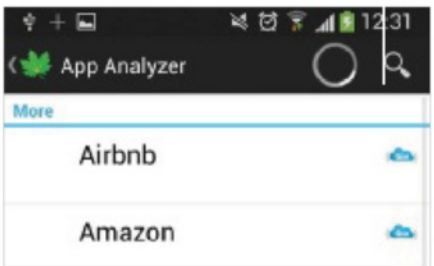
With Greenify you can instruct Android to block apps from running in the background. Greenify requires your device to be rooted, and draws a line in the sand to stop apps from draining your resources – after all, there's really no need for it to happen. Unlike other app-killers, the secret of Greenify's success is in the hibernation of the resource-draining apps. This is in contrast to the cat-and-mouse, stop-start-stop that can occur with some, and unlike Titanium Backup Pro's freeze feature, you can still use apps hibernated in Greenify. While not ideal for alarm clocks or messaging apps, Greenify is a superb, lightweight solution for Samsung devices to battery-draining apps.

> "Instruct Android to block apps running in the background"



1 User interface

The most effective apps are simple to use, and Greenify is certainly no different. The first screen will list your choice of Hibernated apps, but of course on first run this will be empty. To add an app to the list, tap the '+' button to display a list of all apps.

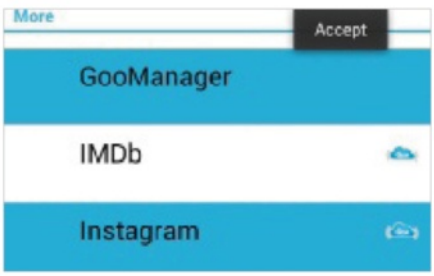


2 App Analyzer

The screen listing your apps is the App Analyzer, where you will see your apps grouped into categories such as Running in background, Scheduled running and May slow down the device. If the app you wish to hibernate isn't listed, tap More or use Search.

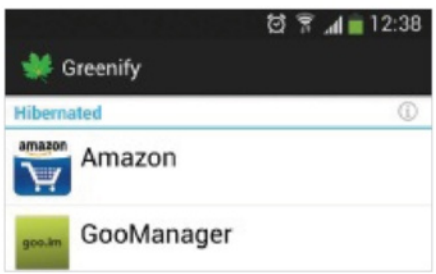
3 Search and select

The Search button returns you to the home screen where you can find the app you wish to add to Greenify using the App Picker tool. You can also browse through the app list, tapping the App Picker button in the Notification Area when the app is running.



4 Select apps to hibernate

In the App Analyzer you can hibernate multiple apps by selecting each in turn. You can just as easily select a single app. To apply Greenify's hibernation magic, tap the tick button in the top-right corner. Greenify will inform you that the app is being hibernated.

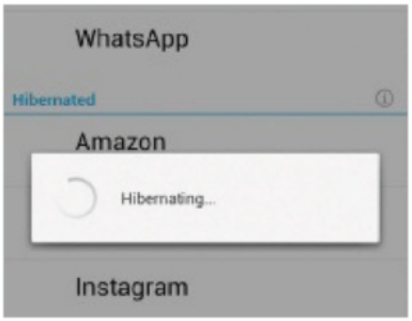


5 Manage the list

As you hibernate resource-hogging apps, they will be added to the Hibernated list, the first screen you encounter when running the app. This screen enables you to launch hibernated apps by tapping Play; you can put them to sleep using the Zzz button.

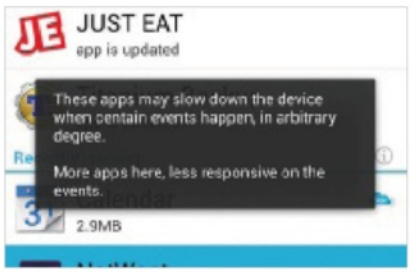
6 Which apps should you hibernate?

The App Analyzer list can prove a little tricky to handle, especially if you don't know which apps are draining your battery. Apps listed under Running in background should be your priority as these will be using up resources.



7 Scheduled running

Apps listed under Scheduled running, meanwhile, can perhaps be the most dangerous. If there is no need that you can see for an app to run on a scheduled basis, then you should consider hibernating it so that it is only activated when you permit it.


JUST EAT
app is updated
These apps may slow down the device when certain events happen, in arbitrary degree.
More apps here, less responsive on the events.
2.9MB

8 Slow down apps

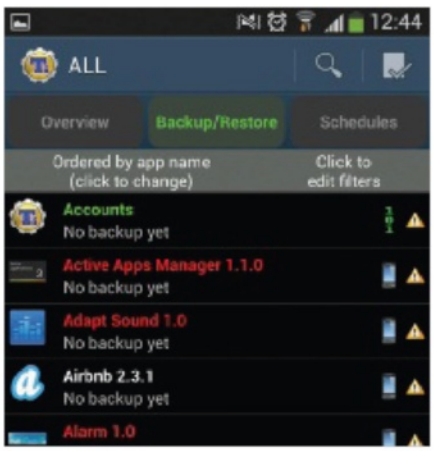
Any apps listed under the 'May slow down the device' heading rely on particular events to launch. These are resource-heavy apps that should only be used in certain scenarios – again, this list should be short, focusing on regularly used apps.

9 Hibernate apps, save your battery

Battery performance can be improved using Greenify, and apps that you have hibernated are easily 'woken up'. For added control, you can use the Disable auto-hibernation menu option to prevent hibernation of any apps.

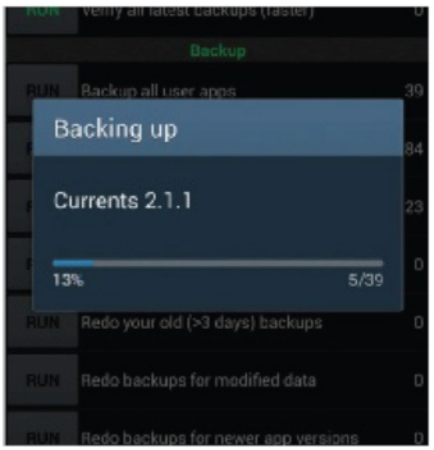
5 Restore your data the easy way

Use Titanium Backup to quickly flash all your apps and data after flashing a ROM



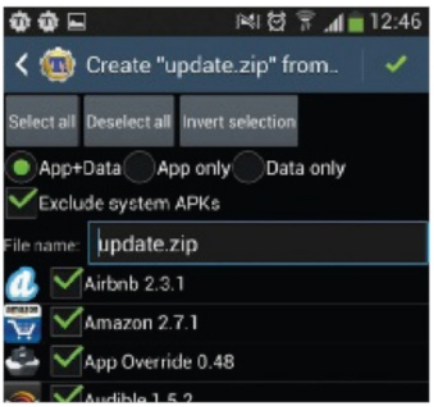
1 Go pro

If you haven't already got it, download Titanium Backup Pro from the Play store. You'll need root access to be able to use it, so grant this when prompted. Tap the tick icon in the top-right of the main screen to start setting up your first backup.



2 Back up your data

First you need to back up your data. In the Backup section of the Batch Actions screen choose your preferred option – 'Backup all user apps + system data' will create a full backup of everything on your phone. Hit Run to set the process in motion.



3 Create update.zip

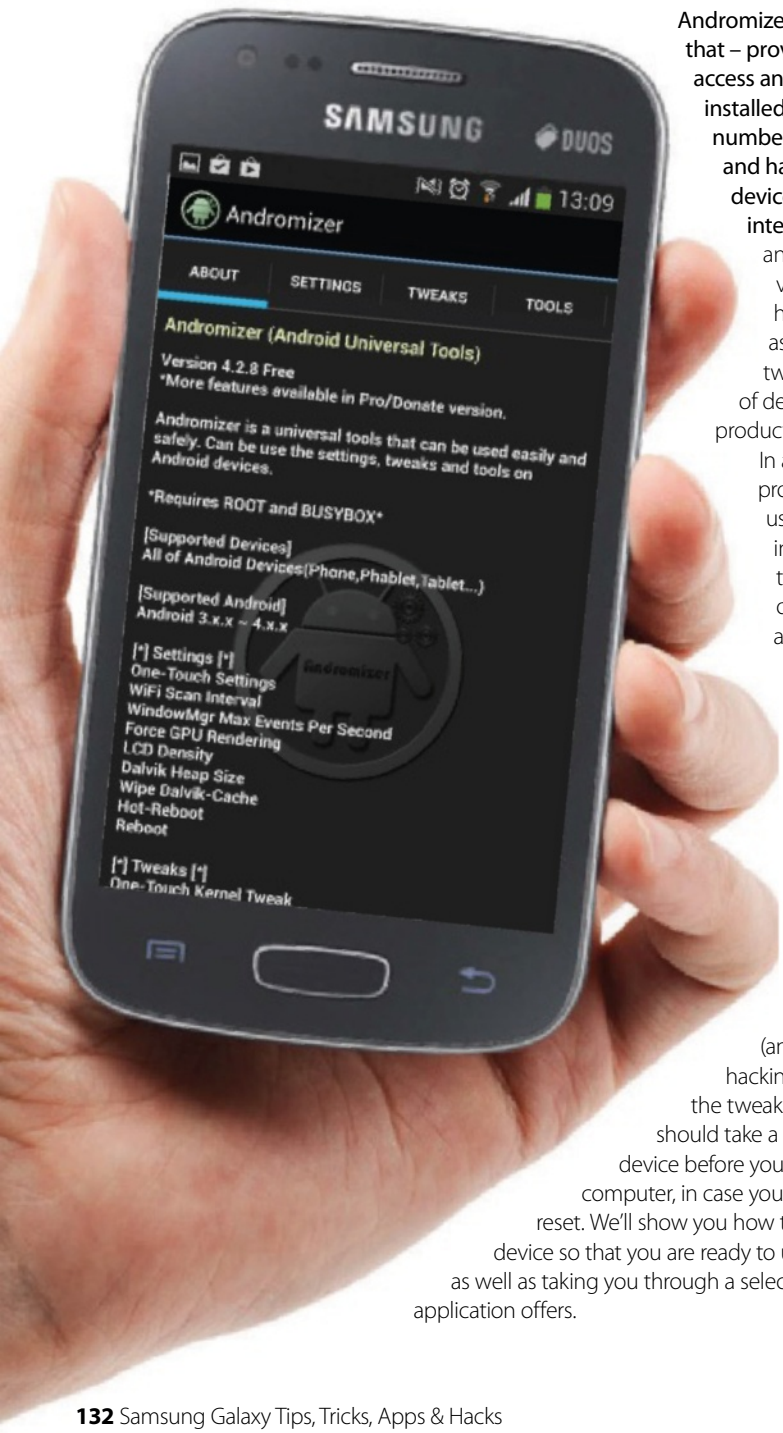
With the backup complete, scroll down the Batch Actions screen to Recovery Mode and select Create update.zip from app+data backups. You can choose which data you want in your flashable zip. Make your choice and then hit the green tick button.

4 Flash to restore

Your data is now fully backed up and flashable in either CWM or TWRP recovery. Now when you wipe your data before flashing a ROM you can flash this update.zip as well, and when you reboot into the new ROM all your apps and data will be waiting.

6 Hack and tweak with one click

Andromizer and Andromizer Pro give easy access to a plethora of modifications



Andromizer is a universal toolkit that – provided you have root access and a Busybox binary installed – gives access to a huge number of modifications, tweaks and hacks on your Samsung device, all via an easy-to-use interface. Available in both free and paid (£1.81/$2.76) pro versions, the app includes a host of universal modifications, as well as device specific tweaks for a growing number of devices – primarily Samsung products at the moment.

In addition, Andromizer provides a number of easy-to-use features including a system information viewer, reboot tools, a one-touch optimisation option, a ROM cleaner, user and system data backup and restore features (pro version required) and a tool to back up and restore SMS and call logs. If you are using a TWRP or PhilZ recovery image, one-touch links are also provided by Andromizer to boot to recovery and run a backup, restore, wipe or zip installation.

As with all root applications (and particularly modification or hacking apps), using some of the tweaks can be dangerous – you should take a full Nandroid backup of your device before you start and copy it to your computer, in case you have to completely factory reset. We'll show you how to install BusyBox on your device so that you are ready to use Andromizer right away, as well as taking you through a selection of the features that the application offers.

12:57
Auto Update Busybox
Applet Manager
Install Busybox
About BusyBox
BusyBox is not installed
Busybox 1.21.1
will be installed to
/system/xbin
Free space in /system: 344.0mb
Smart Install
Smart Install is loading. You may go ahead and install Busybox using the normal install method or wait for Smart Install to finish loading.
Gathering information...
processing: chmod

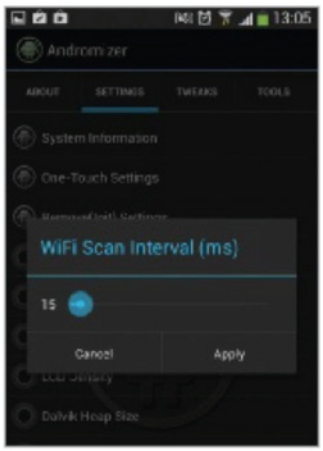
1 Install BusyBox

BusyBox is a binary that includes a host of useful shell commands. These are often used by hacking applications, but they are also useful if you run an ADB shell. Download 'Busybox' by JRummy or Stericson from the Play store. Launch and install it.

13:06
One-Touch Kernel Tweaks
3.4.0-526204 #1 SMP PREEMPT Fri Apr 26 00:06:03 KST 2013
CPU Scaling Frequency
Min 384MHz
Max 1890MHz
CPU Governor
I/O Scheduler
ondemand
cfq
The following settings will be displayed if supported by the current kernel.
Multicore Power Saving
Disable
Try to group tasks into the least cores possible. 2 for the most aggressive.
ZRAM
This feature reserves 10% of your device RAM as compressed swap space.
TCP Congestion Control
cubic

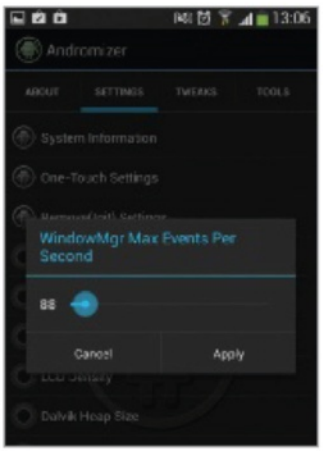
6 Kernel tweaks

The One-Touch Kernel Tweaks option, found in the Tweaks section, enables you to easily change kernel options including frequency, governor, scheduler, power saving and more. You can apply changes temporarily or such that they survive reboots. Try first!



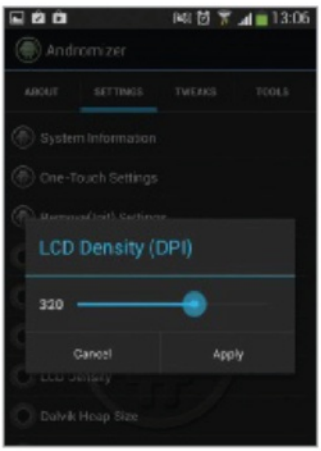
2 WiFi Scan Interval

Andromizer lets you set the WiFi Scan Interval for your device. This value, set in ms and found on the Settings page, controls how often your device checks for new networks when not connected. Increasing this can help save battery power.



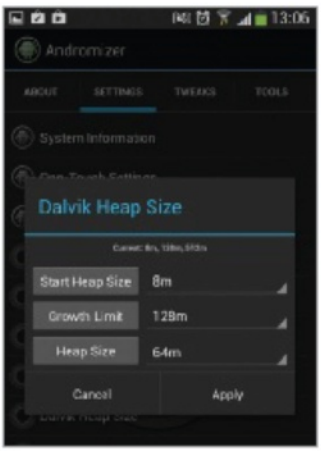
3 Increase the WindowMgr

Also found in Settings, some users have found increasing the 'WindowMgr Max Events Per Second' value can help with scrolling smoothness, as it lets the Window Manager to process on screen tasks more quickly.



4 LCD Density

Changing the LCD Density of your device enables you to make on-screen elements smaller or larger. Not all apps will appear correctly at different densities, so there is likely to be some trial and error required in finding a value that you like.

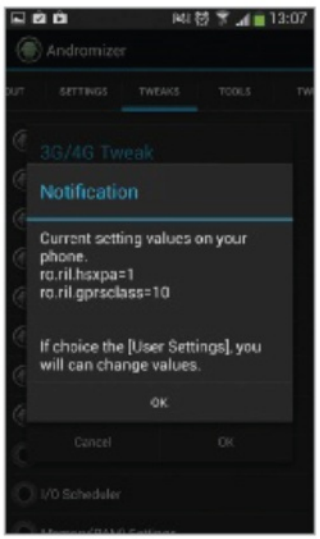


5 Dalvik Heap Size

The Dalvik Heap Size corresponds to how much heap (memory space) an app can use. Apps can be slowed down by memory management tasks if their usage approaches the max, in which case increasing this may offer some benefit.

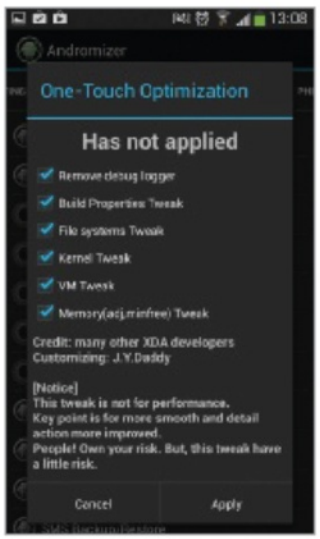
7 Build Prop

The Build Prop Manager lets you edit your device's build.prop values. Using the editor you can change your device to appear as something else, change the ROM version display, switch default locale or modify a whole host of low level settings.



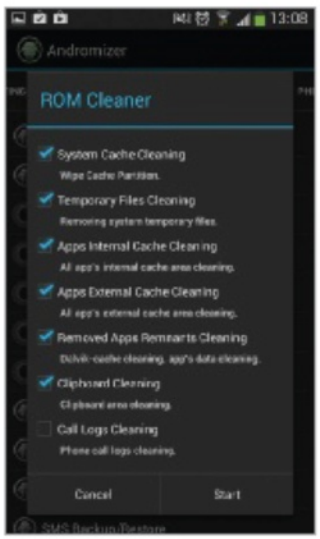
8 3G/4G settings

The 3G/4G Optimizer enables you to modify your HSPA settings. By modifying the HSDPA (download) category and HSUPA (upload) category you may be able to improve data speeds. Search the terms to find out more about them.



9 Optimiser

If you're not sure which settings to change but you want a quick and easy boost to your system, the 'One-Touch Optimisation' option is worth a try. The low risk changes applied here should give your device a small performance upgrade.



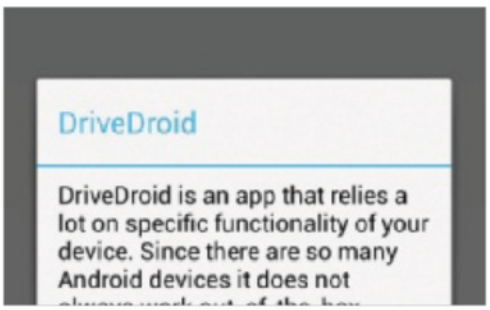
10 Regain space

Andromizer's ROM Cleaner function clears a host of different caches, which could help you regain some of your storage space. Many of the areas cleaned should be automatically maintained by Android, but we did regain a little bit of space.

7 Run Linux from your phone

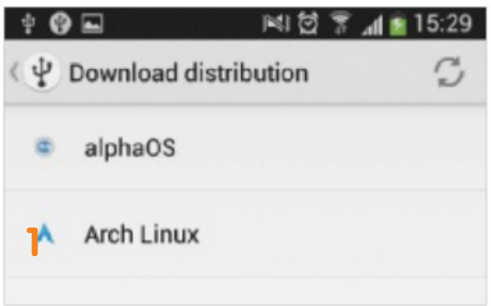
Boot any computer into your Linux distro of choice with just a few simple steps using the root friendly DriveDroid app

Want to test out a version of Linux, or do you tinker with your PC to such an extent that you need to keep a rescue system on hand? Using the free utility DriveDroid you can boot directly into Linux simply by connecting your phone. DriveDroid simplifies the process, ensuring your phone is compatible then guiding you through the download and boot processes. Your phone will need to be rooted, and you will need to ensure you've got plenty of free storage, plus a USB cable to connect to any PC.


DriveDroid
DriveDroid is an app that relies a lot on specific functionality of your device. Since there are so many Android devices it does not

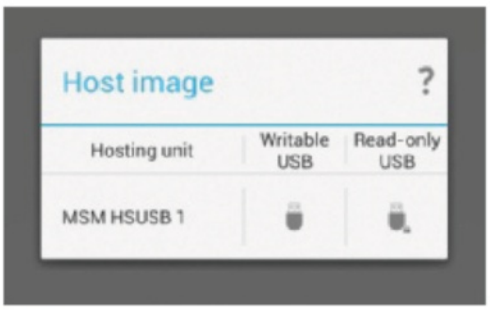
1 Set up your phone

The opening step for DriveDroid is to follow the guide to ensure your phone is set up properly to work. Don't skip this step; if you encounter any problems, the solution is likely to found be in here.



2 Download an image

When that is complete you will need to get a Linux image to boot in to. The app will give you access to a long list of supported Linux distros, so pick and download. For testing, Ubunutu is good.



3 Choose the image

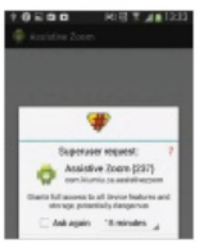
With your Linux image downloaded you are now ready to boot your PC. Select the image file from the DriveDroid main screen and choose Writable USB or Read-only USB. The former is best for full OS access, the latter for an infected PC.

4 Connect and go

Make sure USB boot is the primary boot method on your computer, then connect your smartphone via USB and power on the PC. It should now boot into Linux rather than Windows or whatever other OS you have got installed.

8 Set your phone for one-hand use

Use Assistive Zoom to zoom in and out with just one finger



1 Give root permissions

Give the Assistive Zoom app root permissions. You will now be taken into the set up screen for the app. Follow the instructions.

2 Follow the setup guide

The app is accessed by tapping the magnifying glass at the side of the screen. Hold on the icon and slide your finger to zoom in or out.

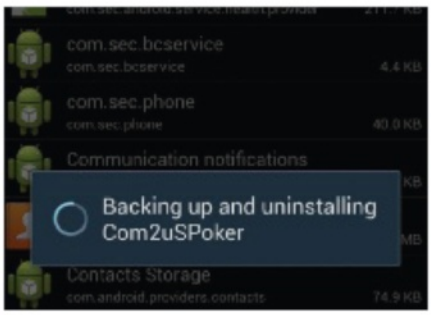
3 One hand zooming

Launch an app that supports pinch zoom. Zooming starts once you lift your finger from the screen. Long press to view extra settings.

9 Remove unwanted system apps

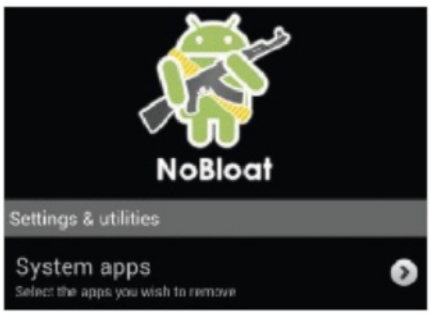
Get rid of a manufacturer's bloat-heavy skin

Most phones come with a certain level of customisation. Often this will amount to not much more than a few extra apps, but sometimes a phone will have a huge custom skin packed with additional features that you don't need. Usually these apps will not be able to be removed through normal methods, so you're stuck with them cluttering up your app drawer and possibly even using system resources whether you like it or not. With NoBloat Free you can safely rid your phone of much of this junk. You can disable or even completely uninstall the apps you don't want, safe in the knowledge that you can restore them just as easily should you ever change your mind. Your device must be rooted for this app to work.



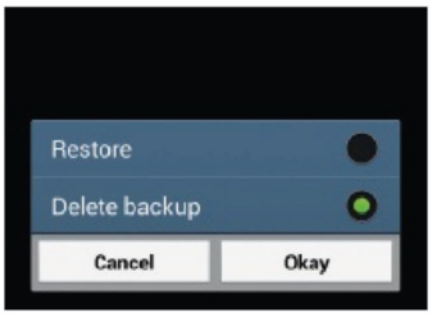
1 Disable or delete

Download and launch NoBloat Free, and grant root access. Tap the System apps to see the apps that can't be uninstalled. Pick an item you would like to remove, tap on it and choose either Disable or Backup and delete.



2 Re-enable apps

Disabled apps are kept in the system but are hidden and will not run. This is a good option for apps that run in the background by default, and a good way to test the impact of removing an app before you delete it.

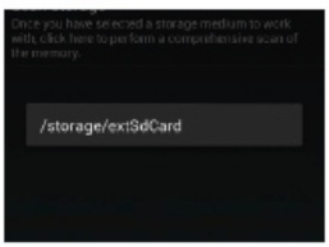


3 Restore from backup

Go to Backed up apps to restore apps you've deleted. You can't restore an app you didn't back up, which is why it is important to do so. If you're certain you'll never need the app, you can delete the backup instead.

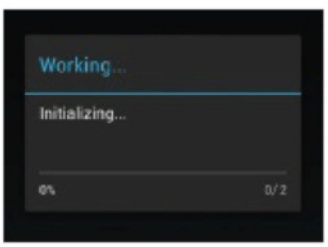
10 Recover deleted files with Undelete

Ever deleted a precious file by mistake? You might be able to get it back using this free download…



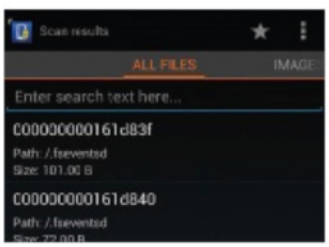
1 Grant permissions

Grant superuser permissions when launching Undelete. Tap select storage to choose whether to scan internal or external. Your options will be limited to those drives supported. Tap Scan storage to continue.



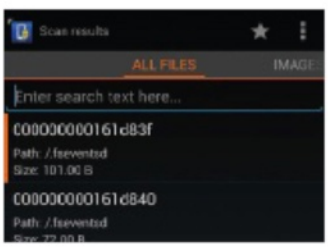
2 Scan storage

Scanning your selected storage area may take a few minutes depending on its size. When complete, all the deleted, but recoverable files, will be shown. Swipe sideways to filter by content, or type a filename.



3 Select files

Tap on a file or multiple files and hit the Restore button. The free version only works with image files, so register if you want to restore other formats. Not all files will be able to be recovered, so this is a last resort app only.



4 Shred files

For added security you can also choose to Shred files. This will remove them from your memory card and make sure they cannot be recovered at all. The process is the same as it is for restoring: choose the files and hit Shred.

App used: System Tuner **Price:** Free

Tweak Android for optimum performance

Use System Tuner to supercharge your Android with a series of tweaks

"A free app which can revive your love of Android"

Finding Android sluggish and unresponsive? Could it be that your phone is not properly tuned, or bloatware and other apps are getting in the way of the 'pure' Android experience?

If so, you could probably do with a tuning utility, one that can kill running tasks, uninstall tough-to-remove apps, log activity, adjust the SD cache and display various notifications concerning CPU load, used memory and include them in home screen widgets. That list describes System Tuner, a free app which can quite literally revive your love of Android.

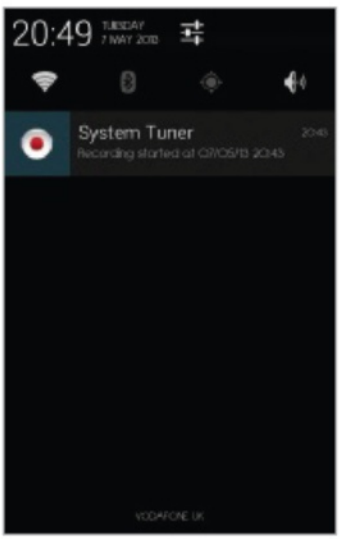
With a simple installation and setup, System Tuner's strength is in the sheer depth of options it provides. The vast majority of Android performance issues are covered, and if there is no apparent solution for why your device hangs, lags or crashes, System Tuner includes a log and statistical tools that you can use to track down what is going wrong. Extended features enable you to back up and restore applications, freeze and unfreeze apps, clear all caches and run an app booster when you boot to improve performance.

System Tuner is an all-in-one collection of vital utilities that will greatly improve the performance of your device, but beware: you can run into problems running too many fixes simultaneously. Avoid this by solving problems methodically with the tools available. Here's how you get started.

System Tweaks
Info
Build
SysCtl
CPU
ARMv7 Processor rev 2 (v7l)
Linux version 3.0.21-CM+ (inky-ghost@cyanogenmod) (gcc version 4.6.x-google 20120106 (prerelease) (GCC)) #1 SMP PREEMPT Sun Feb 10 09:31:07 PST 2013
processor : 0
BogoMIPS: 597.27
processor : 1
BogoMIPS: 599.77
Features : swp half thumb fastmult vfp edsp thumbee neon vfpv3
CPU implementer : 0x41
CPU architecture: 7
CPU variant : 0x1
CPU part : 0xc09
CPU revision : 2

1: Get inside System Tuner

When you first launch the app, you will notice two buttons in the top-right corner. The right-most icon is the Settings menu (for configuring how various tweaks are applied) while the icon to the left will display the main menu.



6: Notifications

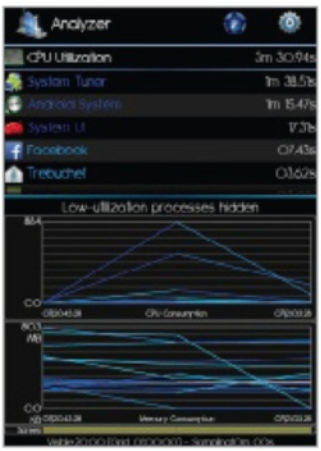
To get the most out of System Tuner, enable notifications. Open Settings>Notification Packages to enable notification area alerts, including Recording Notification. Various icon packages to use as home screen widgets are available for download via the same screen.

2: General system tweaks

One of the most powerful options is the SD cache tuner in the System Tweaks menu. Check and change the Cache Size, check the usage of your SD card, and via Boot settings, clear the cache for speed improvements.

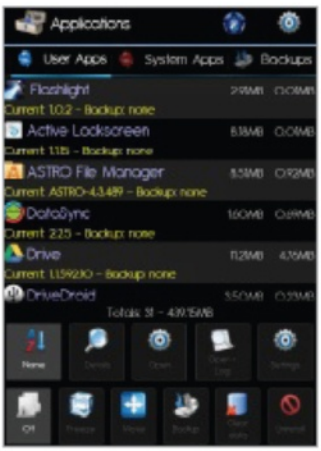
3: Kill unwanted apps and tasks

Task killing apps are very popular as more and more apps and utilities become tougher to close. In the Task Manager screen select individual apps to close them and tap Kill. Kill-all culls all your open apps.



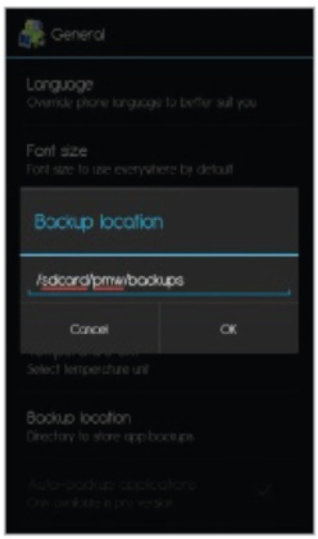
4: Using the diagnostic tools

Use the sort button in Task Manager to determine how the list of apps displays. Another useful tool is the Analyzer, which scans data stored in the log. Activate logging by tapping the Start button in System Tuner.



5: Freeze and unfreeze apps

System Tuner is mostly used for app management. Open User to check the status of currently installed apps and select to freeze or boil (unfreeze), move to SD, back up or even clear the app data.

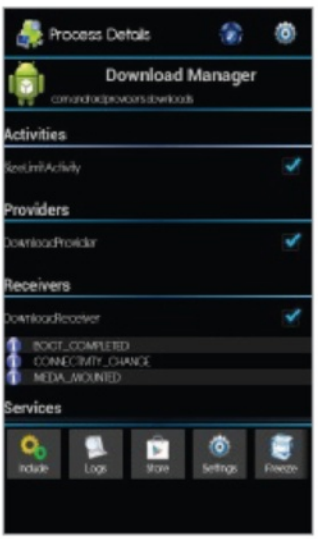


7: Back up all apps

To back up your apps, you will first need to configure a Backup location in Settings>General. Once set up, open the Backups screen and tap All. The backup will proceed, saving data to the specified location. Apps can be restored from the same screen.

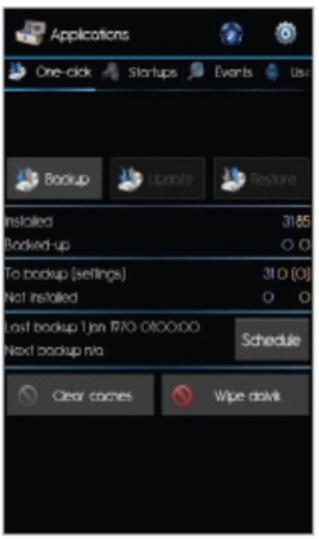
8: App info

In User, select an app and tap Properties to view options such as Force stop, Uninstall, Move to SD card and Clear data. Stats for storage and the amount of cache memory being used will display. These are also available elsewhere in System Tuner.



9: Exclude apps

You might prefer some apps to keep running while you cull others or remove them from the Startup list. In Startups, open the app you want to keep and tap the Exclude button. This protects the app from any actions you initiate in System Tuner.



10: One-click control

If all of the above seems like so much messing about, try the One-click screen. Here, you can quickly initiate a full app Backup, Schedule backups, Clear caches and Wipe dalvik, providing easy access to these tools from one screen while on the move.

App used: Cerberus anti theft **Price:** €2.99/$4.09 (Licence)

Get extra security on your device

Afraid of mobile theft? The Cerberus security app cannot be removed – even with a factory reset

Smartphones and tablets are stolen every day, often from pockets, bags and from tables in bars and restaurants. A call to the police is a mere formality for insurance purposes usually, resulting in a new phone – if you're one of the lucky ones.

There are various apps and services available that can assist with tracking your phone, but the downside of these is that a savvy thief (let's face it, that's most of them) will know how to uninstall the app, preventing you from tracking it or using the device camera to identify the culprit. They don't even have to go that far – disabling data transfers will block attempts to find the purloined phone or tablet. What you need is a smartphone security app that isn't at the whim of data connections and can't be uninstalled – an app like Cerberus.

Available for €2.99/£2.52 after a free one-week trial, Cerberus is your best chance of recovering your stolen device. It can be installed as a standard app, as a hidden, 'system' process or even flashed to incorporate into your system ROM, meaning that Cerberus cannot be removed.

There's even the facility to communicate with your phone using silent SMS messages, enabling remote control and tracking options that would otherwise be unavailable to you.

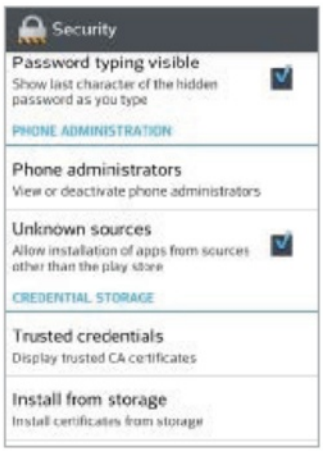
Cerberus is easy to install, simple to use and it might prove vital when you need it most.

1: Three ways to install

Once you have downloaded Cerberus, there are three ways to install the app: you can choose between a standard APK file, a hidden version that disguises itself in the Manage Applications screen and a flashable ZIP.

6: Remote control options explained

After installation and the creation of your account, you can sign into the Cerberus website. Here you'll find a Google map with a menu in the top-left corner to help track your phone. All options are available here in the drop-down menu. .

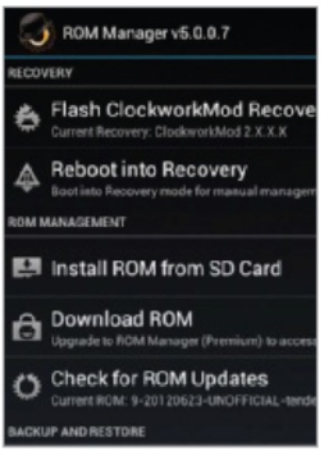


2: Standard version

The standard version can be installed from Google Play, or direct from the website and installed on your Android as long as Settings>Security>Unknown Sources is ticked. After launching you can create your Cerberus account, free for seven days.

3: Hide Cerberus

If concerned about Cerberus being disabled, download the hidden Cerberus_disguised.APK version, which runs as a system framework in the Manage Applications screen. Or, use the Hide from app drawer option in the Cerberus web console.



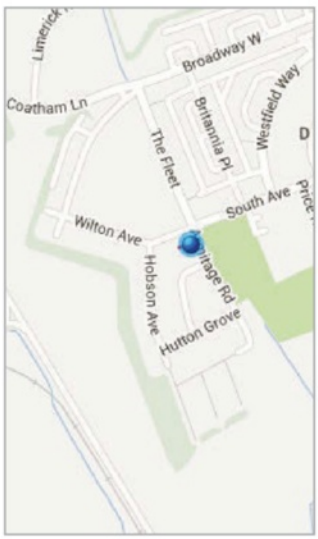
4: Full security

For ultimate security against thieves uninstalling Cerberus, users with root access can flash the app with a preferred recovery utility, integrating it into your phone's ROM, making it impossible for a thief to uninstall. A hidden version is also available.

Activate phone administrator?
Cerberus
Please enable admin rights to get Cerberus advanced features like uninstall protection, remote wipe and lock with password.
Activating this administrator will allow the app Cerberus to perform the following operations:
Erase all data
Erase the phone's data without warning by performing a factory data reset
Reset password
Change the screen-unlock password
Watch login attempts

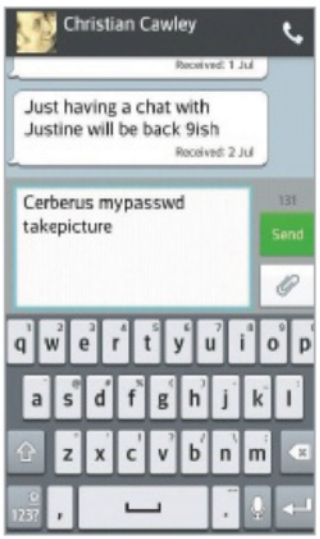
5: Configuring

Enable Cerberus via the settings screen where you can toggle remote wipe options, determine how photos are taken following failed unlocks and reset your password. SIM checker ensures your phone can be tracked even if the SIM card is changed.



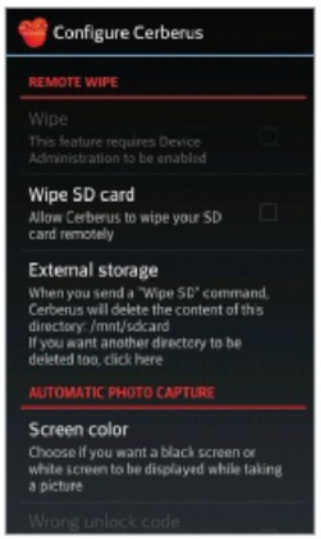
7: Locate and track

To track your Android, select the Start tracking option and click Send command, an action that will display your phone on the Google map. The Get location history option, meanwhile, will show you where your phone has been since tracking was enabled.



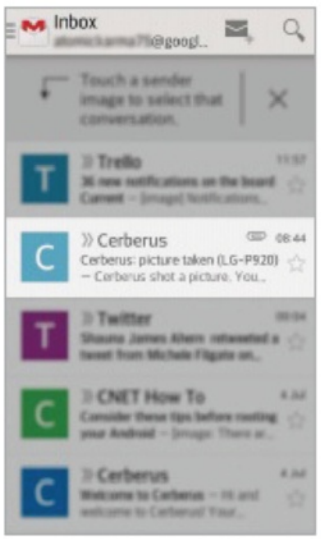
8: Offline remote

Tracking requires your phone to be online. If the thief disables the connection, from another phone, send the command: cerberus password enabledata, where 'password' is your Cerberus password. All SMS commands are on the Cerberus website.


Configure Cerberus
REMOTE WIPE
Wipe
This feature requires Device Administration to be enabled
Wipe SD card
Allow Cerberus to wipe your SD card remotely
External storage
When you send a "Wipe SD" command, Cerberus will delete the content of this directory: /mnt/sdcard
If you want another directory to be deleted too, click here
AUTOMATIC PHOTO CAPTURE
Screen color
Choose if you want a black screen or white screen to be displayed while taking a picture
Wrong unlock code

9: Wipe your data

There are various ways to protect your personal data from theft via Cerberus. You can use the Lock with code command, specifying a password, or you might rely on the Wipe device memory or Wipe SD card options. SMS wipe commands are also available.



10: Catch 'em

Cerberus also lets you take photos, video and record audio of your device's thief. The options also have SMS alternatives and should help identify your thief. It might not stop your phone being stolen, but Cerberus can certainly help in its retrieval.

App used: Halo))) Price: Free

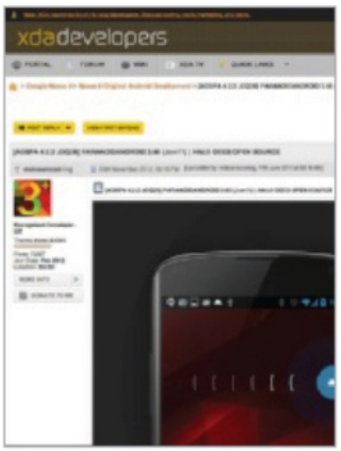
Multitask in the Paranoid Android ROM

The Paranoid Android custom ROM includes a flexible feature named HALO – here's what it's all about

"Paranoid Android's signature feature is a true 'hybrid' mode"

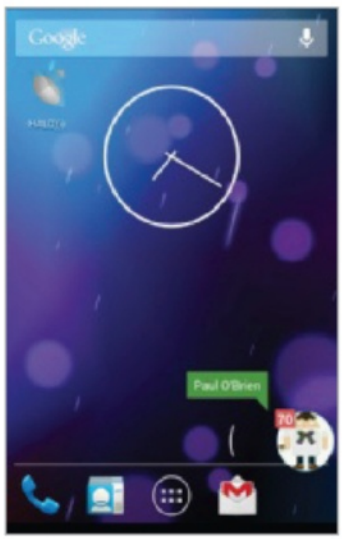
Paranoid Android is a popular AOSP-based custom ROM available for a large number of devices. Paranoid Android's signature feature is a true 'hybrid' mode which enables you to scale every app, widget, or even system components individually. You can choose a custom or DPI mode for virtually everything. Do you want to use Gmail in the tablet UI while keeping the rest of your device as normal? Paranoid Android will let you do that. Do you prefer the phone UI on your tablet or the tablet UI on your phone? No problem.

As well as the hybrid functionality, Paranoid Android includes another unique feature called HALO. HALO is inspired by Facebook's ChatHeads functionality, which overlays a circle on top of the Android UI from where you can quickly access your Facebook chats. HALO takes the concept to the next level, letting you access your current notifications or any app installed on your device from a 'ring' that is always visible. HALO is probably best described as a cross between ChatHeads and Samsung's MultiWindow experience. What you get is the full app running in a window on top of the app you are currently using, which continues to run in the background. HALO is gesture based – after activation, simple gestures let you access the advanced functionality of the feature. Here's how you can get the most from this custom ROM.



1: Find and download Paranoid Android

Paranoid Android is installed in the same way as any other custom ROM – using a custom recovery (for example TWRP). Unfortunately there is no central repository for PA ROMs – visit **xda-developers.com** and search for 'Paranoid Android'.

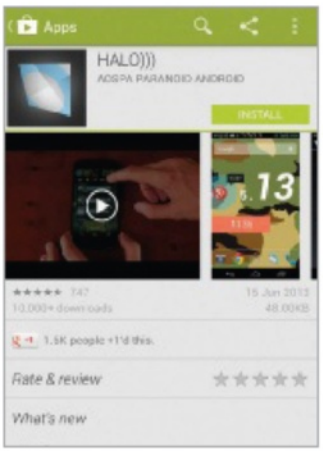


6: Viewing notifications

To view your notifications, click the HALO ring and drag your finger towards the centre. As you move your finger you will see different notifications being highlighted at the top. When you lift your finger, the application for that notification will open in a pop-up window.

2: Download Gapps and flash ROM

You will need the Gapps package to get Google apps functionality after flashing your ROM. Download from **goo.im/gapps**, then reboot into recovery and flash. A wipe is mandatory, so back up first.



3: Install HALO

After you've installed the ROM, rebooted your device and completed the setup wizard, search for the HALO app in the Play store, called 'HALO)))' by AOSPA Paranoid Android. This will give you the ability to pin apps to the HALO ring.

4: Activating and closing HALO

To activate, click the blue circle with speech bubble icon in the notification panel. The HALO ring will appear partially hidden on the left of the screen. To close, double tap, then drag the icon to the red cross that appears.

5: Moving the HALO ring around

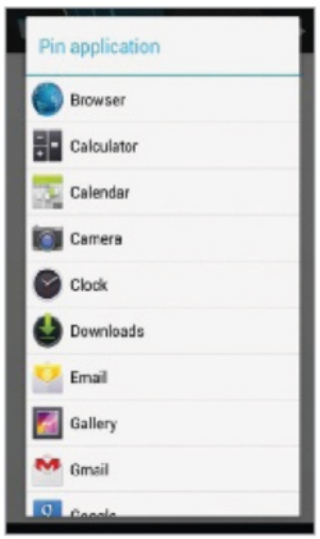
By default the HALO ring is on the left of the screen in the middle, but you can move it around. Double-click and drag the ring to move to either side of the screen – at the top, bottom or anywhere in between.

7: Clearing notifications

To quickly clear the most recent notification, click the HALO ring and drag your finger upwards. Unfortunately, at this time, there's no way to quickly clear all notifications, but it's likely this will be added in a future release.

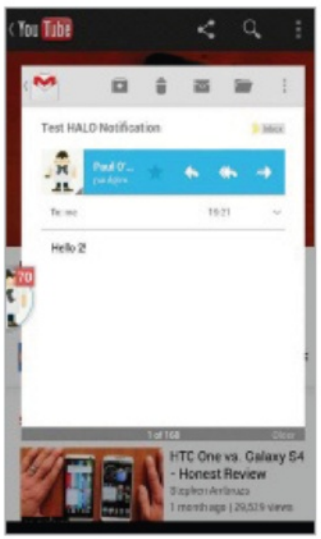
8: Make the HALO ring less visible

If you find the HALO ring at the side of your screen intrusive, you can hide it further off to the side of the screen. Click the ring and drag downwards, the ring will become barely visible but will function in exactly the same way.



9: 'Pin' applications

As well as notifications in the HALO ring, you can pin apps so that they're always accessible. Launch HALO and click on the pin. You will be presented with a list of your installed apps so you can choose the app you wish to have as a permanent shortcut.



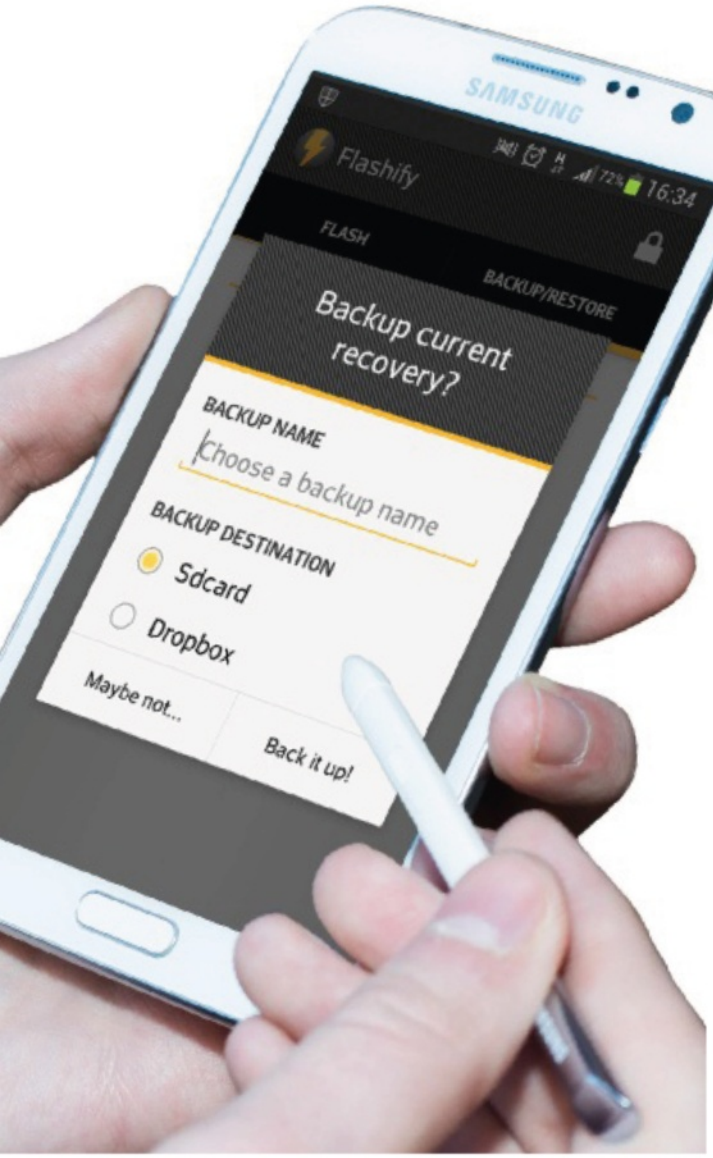
10: True multitasking

When you multitask in Android, it can sometimes be a jarring experience. When you switch back to an app, it might redraw or reload. Play a YouTube video then open something from the HALO ring – it'll keep playing as HALO is a true multitasking app.

App used: Flashify (for root users) **Price:** Free

Flash ROMs the easy way with Flashify

Flashing custom ROMs is set to become more common with this great new app



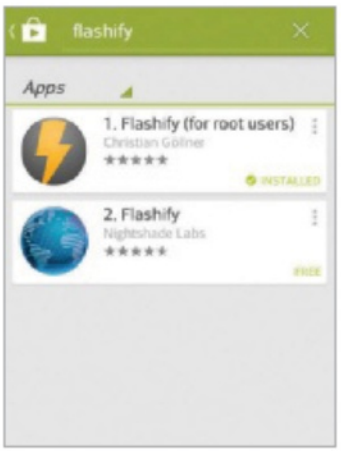
"Flashify offers a new way of flashing ROMs quickly and efficiently"

With Android fragmentation becoming increasingly worse and networks taking an age to roll out updates, more and more users are looking for a way to upgrade their phone and take advantage of improvements to the operating system.

Although it is possible to gain speed benefits and new features using apps and tweaks, the best way to push your Android phone or tablet to the max is to flash a new ROM. Traditionally this has been a potentially complex affair, requiring the user to find a ROM suitable for their phone, check that it meets their needs, download it, and then use a dedicated app to flash it. Guaranteed first time success can be hit and miss, leaving you with a lot of messing about and potentially a bricked phone.

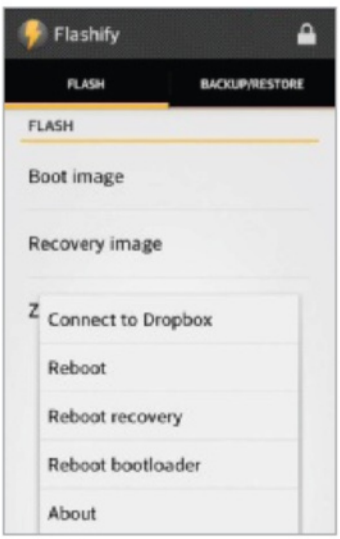
Flashify might just change this. While tools such as ROM Manager have improved over time, Flashify offers a new way of flashing ROMs quickly and efficiently. It might be limited to three flashes a day in the free version, but Flashify includes integration with Dropbox, the ability to flash ROMs from your favourite file explorer app, and you can easily customise your device.

Designed specifically for the Galaxy Nexus, Nexus 4, 7 and 10, Flashify also works with many other devices. This simple and free app is easy to use and looks likely to make flashing ROMs a more popular option. Here's how it works.



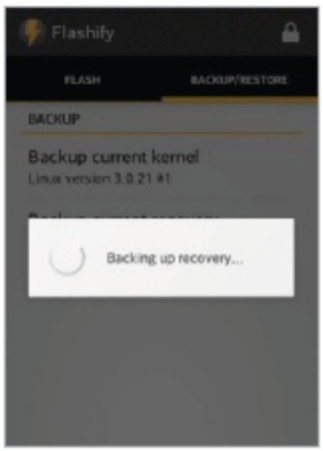
1: Download Flashify (for root users)

Make sure you install the right app. There are a couple of 'flashify' apps on the Play Store, so make sure you choose the one called Flashify (for root users). Once selected and downloaded, it will ask for root permission, which you should grant.



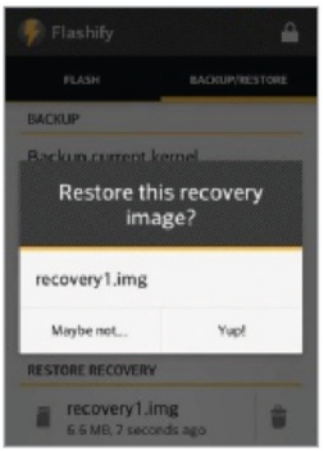
6: Reboot options

You have three reboot options, enabling different flashing and recovery scenarios. Available via the menu, these are Reboot, Reboot recovery and Reboot bootloader. While the first will restart your phone, the others will come in useful for restarting your device.



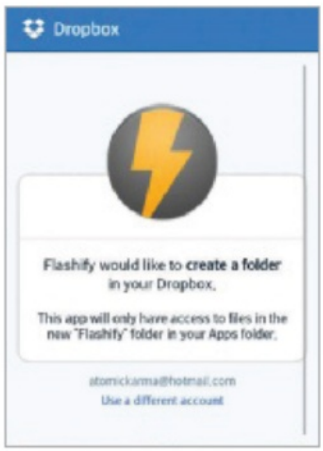
2: Back up before you start

With Flashify installed, loaded and root access assigned, switch to the Backup/Restore menu and select Backup current recovery. Set a backup name and destination and tap Back it up to begin the backup.



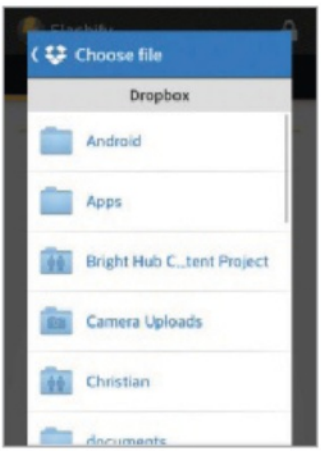
3: Restoring backups

You can also back up the kernel using the same steps and choosing Backup current kernel. To restore a backed up kernel or recovery, select the appropriate .IMG file listed further down the Backup/Restore screen, tap Yup! to confirm. It won't take long.


Dropbox
Flashify would like to create a folder in your Dropbox.
This app will only have access to files in the new "Flashify" folder in your Apps folder.
Use a different account

4: Connecting to Dropbox

A big plus is Flashify's Dropbox integration, activated by opening selecting Connect to Dropbox in Menu. Agree to the request for permission screen, allowing you to flash recovery, boot and ZIP files from Dropbox.



5: Syncing dangers

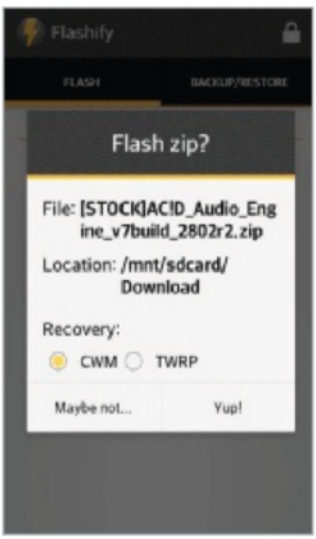
Syncing with your Dropbox account will impact on your phone's storage. For instance, a 500MB image saved to Dropbox will eat up the same amount of storage on your device. If you have limited storage space, delete images after use.

7: Preparing to flash

You don't have to flash your device with a ROM containing a new version of the Android OS – you might use Flashify to flash an enhancement that must be applied at root level. Either way, download the ROM first, saving it to your phone or Dropbox folder.

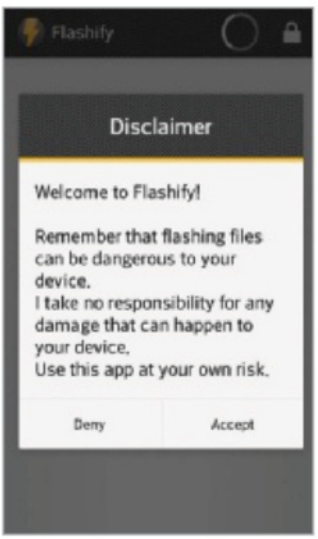
8: Flashing with Flashify

Your ROM file (containing a full image or just a single root-level utility) is ready to begin flashing. Some ZIP files will need the boot or recovery image extracting before flashing with a file explorer like ASTRO File Manager.



9: Flashing a ZIP file

It's easy to flash a ZIP file, just as long as the data is stored where you can browse to it, either on your phone or in Dropbox. Open Flashify, select Flash>Zip file, browse for the desired ZIP and select the recovery type. Tap Yup! to complete.

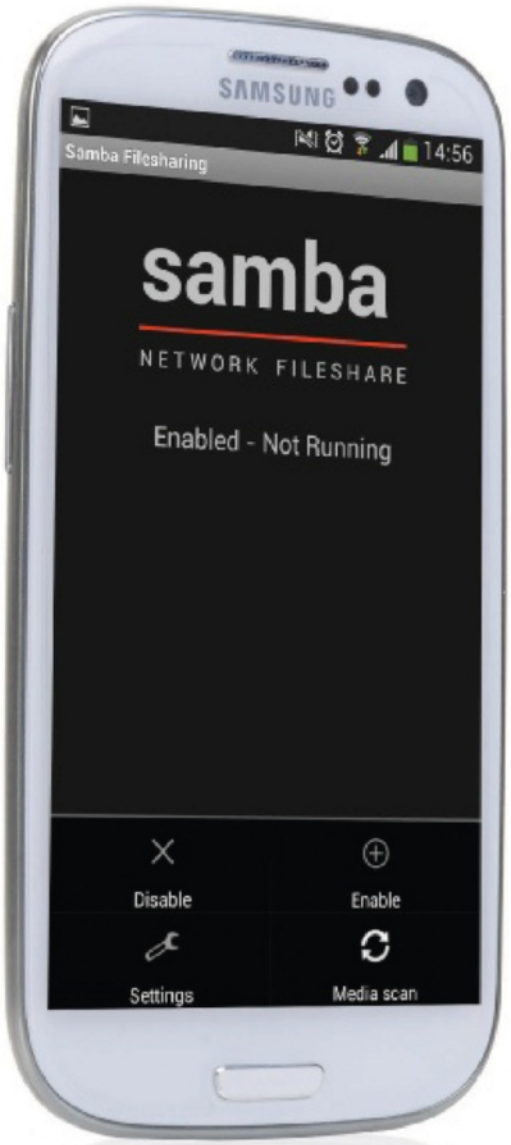

Flashify
Disclaimer
Welcome to Flashify!
Remember that flashing files can be dangerous to your device.
I take no responsibility for any damage that can happen to your device.
Use this app at your own risk.
Deny
Accept

10: The power to flash

With Flashify you can easily upgrade your recovery, boot and ROM and generally customise your device with ease, giving Flashify a massive advantage over its rivals. However, you use the app at your own risk – so back up before flashing!

Share files wirelessly from Android with Samba

Forget about syncing by USB – access Android wirelessly like a shared Windows folder



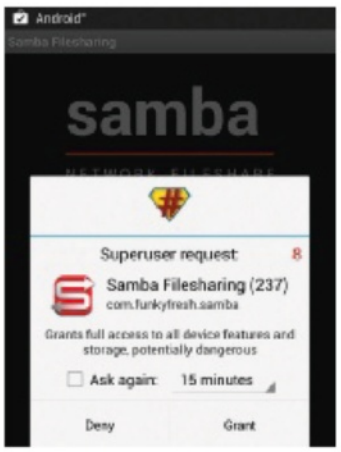
"Samba Filesharing also features a Wi-Fi white list"

With all of the things that you can do wirelessly with Android (connect to the internet or remote control a media centre or PC) connecting to your computer using a USB cable seems a bit, well, old. Wouldn't it be so much better if you could forget about syncing via a USB cable and instead use your local wireless network?

Samba Filesharing for Android is the answer, making it possible for you to copy and paste data to Windows and other SMB compatible computers on your local network. Requiring root but available free from Google Play, you will also need Superuser 2.3.6.2 or later installed on your Android device.

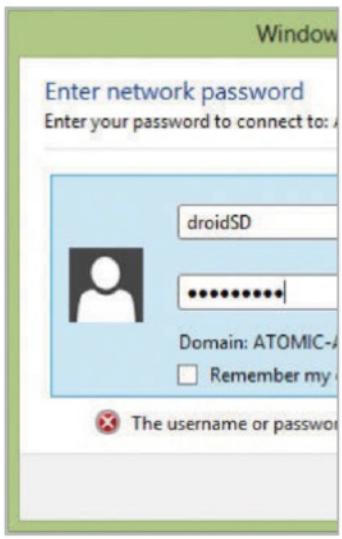
Setting up this application is straightforward, and the results are excellent. Being able to drag and drop data to and from a phone or tablet without bothering with USB cables can save time and potentially free you to send data to your Android from a completely different location.

Providing security options, the ability to add your device to a Windows workgroup, Samba Filesharing for Android also features a Wi-Fi white list, meaning that the app will only connect to wireless hotspots that you have approved. All in all, this is a security-conscious app that can deliver what it promises, granting wireless data transfer with simplistic ease. Note that Samba Filesharing for Android is currently unsuitable for Android 4.1 Jelly Bean devices.



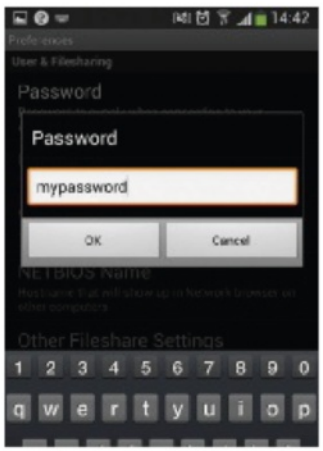
1: Assign Superuser access to Samba

Before launching Samba Network Fileshare, ensure that you have already installed Superuser (or Elite version) from Google Play. You will be asked to allow Superuser access for the app. Once granted, the app will be ready to use.



6: Network drive

You should be able to browse the phone's contents from your computer. Open Windows Explorer and find your phone in the Network section (Organise> Layout>Navigation pane). Double click to open and to view the Samba network credentials.



2: Configure your password

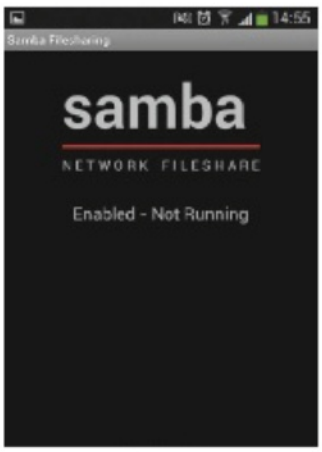
You will be able to configure Samba to use your phone as a networked storage device later – first, you need to configure security. Open the menu and select Settings> Password. This will unlock other settings.

3: Add workgroup

You will also need to configure a Username and Workgroup. The latter will need to match the one used on your computer's network. Right-click the C:\ drive in Windows Explorer and select Properties to display the Workgroup name.

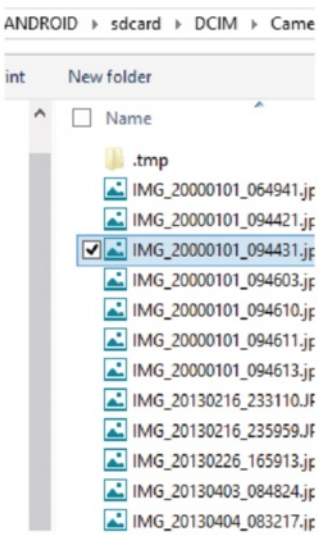
4: Set NETBIOS

The final step to configuring Samba Filesharing for use on your local network is to assign a NETBIOS name. You might find that the default option is enough for your purposes, but if you plan to use Samba on multiple devices you'll need another.



5: Enable Samba Filesharing

After setting up the different names, tap back to the main screen of the app, where you will see the legend: Disabled – Not Running. To make the contents of your phone available to your local network, tap Enable.



7: Browsing

With the connection established, you will then be able to browse the contents of your phone's SD card remotely, as well as copy, paste and delete. With a fast wireless network connection you will be able to enjoy all your files stored on your phone.

8: Other settings

Do you have multi-user data storage? If so open Settings> Other Fileshare Settings and configure a Second Shared Folder. In that menu you can toggle whether Unix extensions are recognised, and whether Samba is used as a file browser.

9: White lists

Few wireless networks are completely secure so avoiding unsecured networks will prevent hackers 'sniffing' any data you move. Using the edit and enable options in Settings>Wifi White List you can determine safe wireless access points to use.

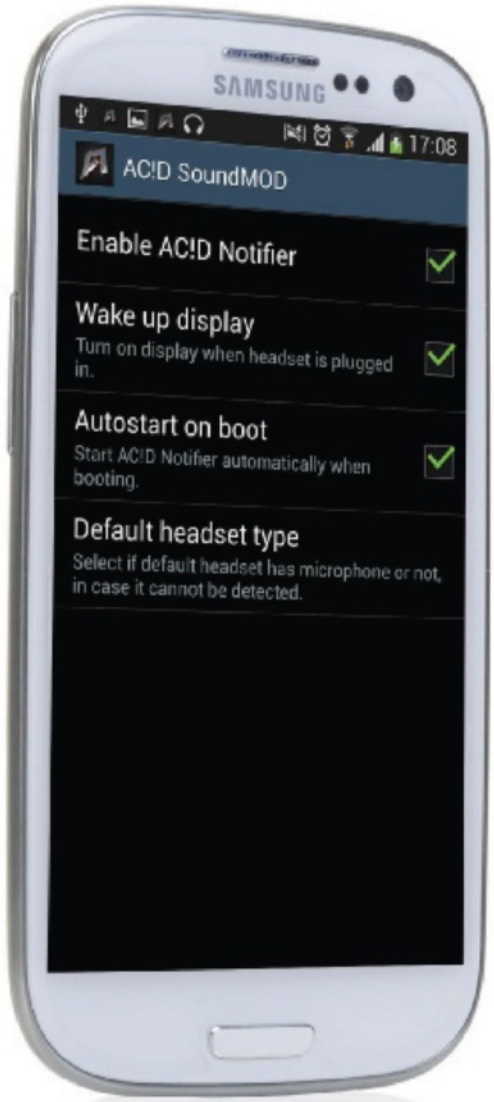
10: Gone to sleep?

If your phone goes to sleep, Wi-Fi is likely to be disconnected. This might cause problems with any open connection. Using the Wake Locks options in Settings can help. Enabling Wifi Wake Lock proves useful heavily impacts battery life.

App used: MegaBassBeats/AC!D Audio Engine **Price:** Free

Flash a custom ROM to enhance your audio

Forget expensive headphones, we'll show you how to get your device sounding better than ever


SAMSUNG
17:08
AC!D SoundMOD
Enable AC!D Notifier
Wake up display
Turn on display when headset is plugged in.
Autostart on boot
Start AC!D Notifier automatically when booting.
Default headset type
Select if default headset has microphone or not, in case it cannot be detected.

"There are plenty of audio equaliser apps in the Play store"

Over the years smartphones have become de facto personal media players, often crammed full of MP3s and video files. But has the ease with which we can now copy, download and stream music from a variety of sources dampened our enjoyment?

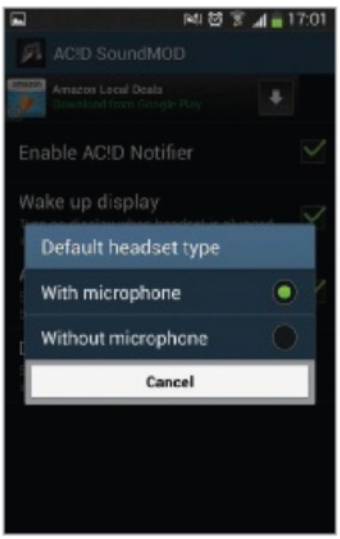
If you think that it's time you started appreciating your portable music collection properly, why not look at enhancing the quality of your device's audio reproduction? While you can only do so much with the hardware and drivers, there are several tools available that you can flash to help gain some improvements to the way your MP3s sound on your headphones.

Unfortunately there are few apps in the Google Play store that are compatible across all devices. Also, installation of such audio enhancement needs to be performed in recovery. As a result, you will need to spend a few minutes searching for a suitable utility and checking that it is compatible with your device. MegaBassBeats and AC!D Audio Engine are two examples that will deliver high-quality audio output.

The benefits of doing this are obvious, but note that any changes will be only recognisable using earphones. Some improvements might be noticeable if you plug your phone into a car stereo, but you won't hear any change when listening on your device's built-in speaker.

1: Finding a compatible audio enhancer

There are plenty of audio equaliser apps available, but what we're talking about here are lower-level utilities that boost the quality of the audio that is heard with earphones. Check places like **xda-developers.com** to find compatible tools.

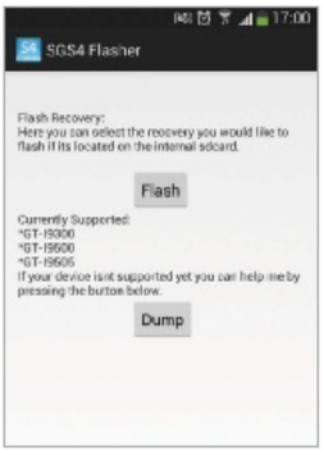


6: Configure enhancer

After rebooting, the first thing you should do (if the update process doesn't automatically boot into the app) is open the chosen audio enhancement utility and configure your options. These may be anything from toggling boot at launch to selecting a headset.

2: Copy the ZIP to Android

Save the file to Android's external storage to find it easily. Due to these audio tweaking utilities, you'll need to use a recovery tool on a rooted device in order to flash the update. Use Titanium Backup or similar as a precaution.


SGS4 Flasher
Flash Recovery:
Here you can select the recovery you would like to flash if its located on the internal sdcard.
Flash
Currently Supported:
*GT-I9300
*GT-I9500
*GT-I9505
If your device is not supported yet you can help me by pressing the button below.
Dump

3: Recovery utility

Recovery software is typically accessed by restarting your phone and selecting the reboot into recovery option, or holding the volume down button as you switch on your phone. You might also have an app shortcut that does the same thing.

4: Prepare to flash

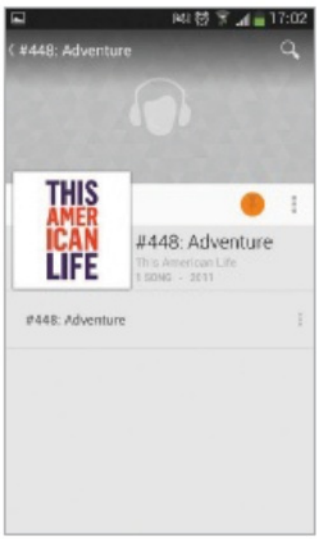
After booting into recovery mode you can prepare for the new software. This means wiping the cache and Dalvik cache within the recovery utility. When you come to flash the update you will have the option to wipe these caches.

5: Flash update

In your recovery tool, use the update option to browse to the downloaded update ZIP file and select it to begin the flashing process. Once successfully completed your phone should reboot. If it doesn't, you can do so manually.

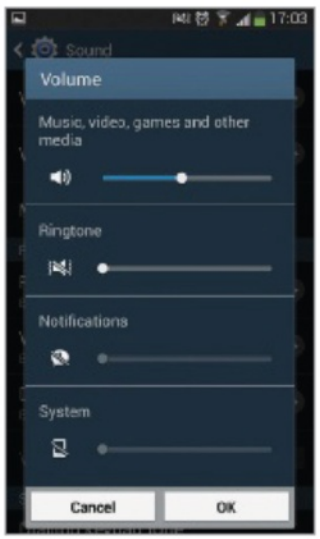
7: Get ready to test

Before you try out the new audio modification, connect your headphones and turn the volume down. This will protect your hearing. You should also check how to disable the modification in the event of it not working with your device.



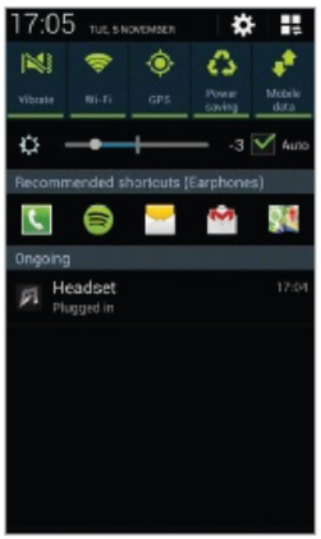
8: Enjoy your audio

To test playback with the audio modification, open Google Play Music, find your favourite tune, put on your earphones and tap play. Keep an eye on the track progress, slowly increasing volume to a comfortable level.



9: Turn it down!

The beauty of audio mods for Android is that once flashed they will improve the quality of your device's sound reproduction, not just in music, but in games too. Pushing the volume up to 11 is no longer necessary as other elements are equalised better.



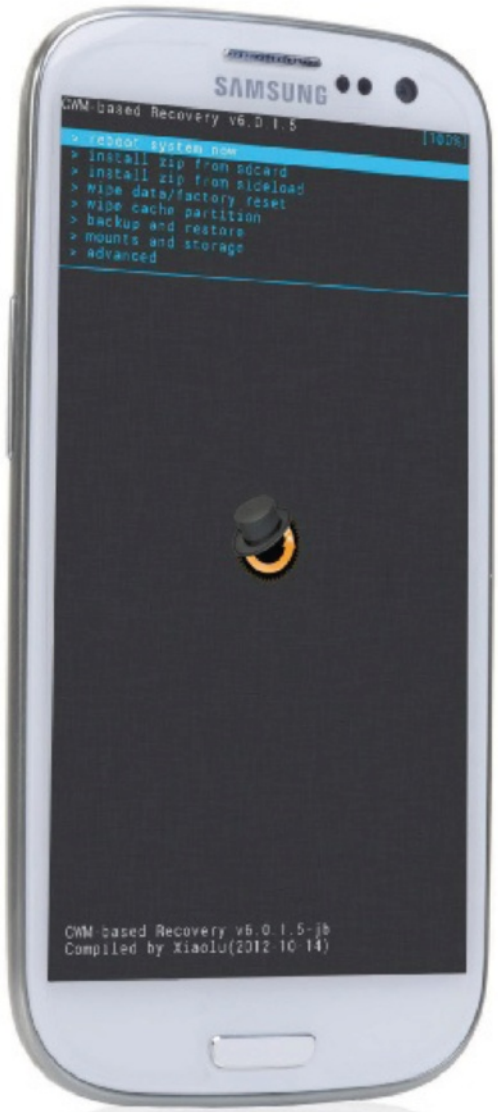
10: New earphones?

Resolving unsatisfactory audio reproduction by upgrading the software is only the beginning in your quest for MP3 enjoyment of Zen proportions. Some mods will detect when your headphones are attached and activate automatically.

App used: MoDaCo Price: Free

Install and customise the MoDaCo ROM

MoDaCo Custom ROMs let you tweak your device while retaining a 'stock' look and feel



"Having the latest updates to the bundled applications included is a real benefit"

There are lots of custom ROMs available for Android devices which cover a number of different levels of customisation. While some completely change the user experience, the custom ROMs from MoDaCo look to retain the stock look and feel, while also providing the latest updates and useful improvements to the user experience.

Aside from the additional functionality provided by custom ROMs, having the latest updates to the various bundled applications included is also a real benefit. The valuable storage space on your device is divided up into a number of partitions. The data partition is used for your app installations and application data, while the pre-installed applications live on the system partition. When a system application is updated, the update goes onto the data partition rather than the system partition as this is always 'read-only'. The result? System application updates (Gmail, Maps etc), which can be quite large, take up valuable space. Custom ROMs with integrated updates help you reclaim that storage.

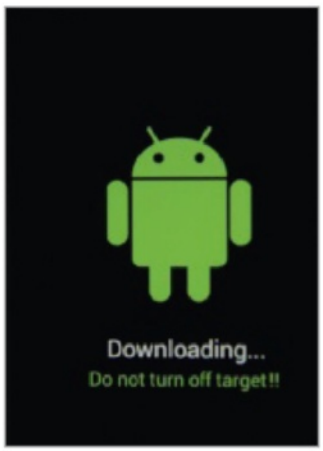
In this tutorial we'll talk you through downloading, installing and customising the MoDaCo Custom ROM on a device – in this case the Nexus 4, as well as detailing how to revert your device back to the factory state should you wish to do so.

1: Download the fastboot tools

Fastboot is included in the Android SDK at **developer.android.com/sdk**. It is available for Windows, Mac or Linux and is required to unlock the bootloader and for installing custom ROMs. Unlocking will wipe your device – back up data first!

6: Download ROM

Go to **www.modaco.com**, click on the Forum link and use the manufacturer-based navigation to find the devce forum –available custom ROMs be listed at the top of the list. Look for the 'pre-bake' link – this is the zip image ready to be flashed onto your device.



2: In fastboot mode

To put your device in fastboot mode, turn it off and then power it back on with the volume down key pressed. There shall be an Android on the screen. In the onscreen text, the top should say 'FASTBOOT MODE' and the bottom, 'LOCK STATE – locked'.

3: Unlock your bootloader

Connect it to your computer and open a command/terminal window. Go to where the fastboot utility is located, type 'fastboot oem unlock'. Use the volume keys to move and power button to select.

4: Download a custom recovery

You need a custom recovery to install a custom ROM. Download the latest .img file for your device from **www.teamw.in**. popular recovery is ClockworkMod, available from **www.clockworkmod.com/rommanager**.

5: Install recovery

To flash the custom recovery, your device needs to be in fastboot mode; turn the device off then power on with the volume down key pressed. Enter the command 'fastboot flash recovery filename.img' (use the name of the downloaded .img).

7: The MoDaCo Custom ROM kitchen

MoDaCo offers a custom ROM kitchen to its premium members. The kitchen enables you to specify which applications and modifications you want in your ROM, tailoring it to your needs. Pick your options then hit 'bake'.

8: Boot to custom recovery

Copy the ROM to the internal SD card. Boot the custom recovery by turning the device off then power on with the volume down key pressed. Use the volume buttons to select Recovery and the power button to confirm.

9: Flash the ROM

You're now ready to flash the ROM. If you are using the TWRP recovery, it's very easy to use. Press the Install button, scroll down the list to select the zip file you copied across, then swipe to confirm the flash. Press the Reboot button when it's done.

10: Reverting to stock

If you decide you want to revert back to the stock ROM, you can download it at **www.galaxys4root.com**. Download the image, extract and run the flash-all script while in bootloader mode and you'll be back to factory default.

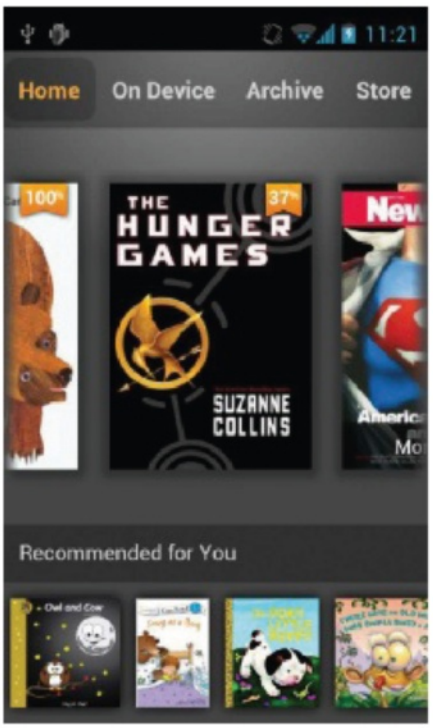
Essential Apps

With over 1,000,000 available apps, the Google Play Store is not far from knocking Apple's App Store off its hallowed pedestal as the go-to place for the best apps. Almost all of the popular favourites are now available on the platform, developers are looking to Android to expand their consumer base, and its open source nature means it's easy for people to get their apps onto the store. But, as always, there are apps at either end of the quality scale, so in this feature we will show you the top apps available for you to download today for your Samsung Galaxy device.

SAMSUNG
12:48
Movies
TV
IMDb
Latest Trailers
In Cinemas
THE HEAT IS COMING
The Heat
The Smurfs 2
Screening Times Near You
Notifications
Notifications
Coming Soon
SAMSUNG
5:21 PM
Shopper
Search product
Sale

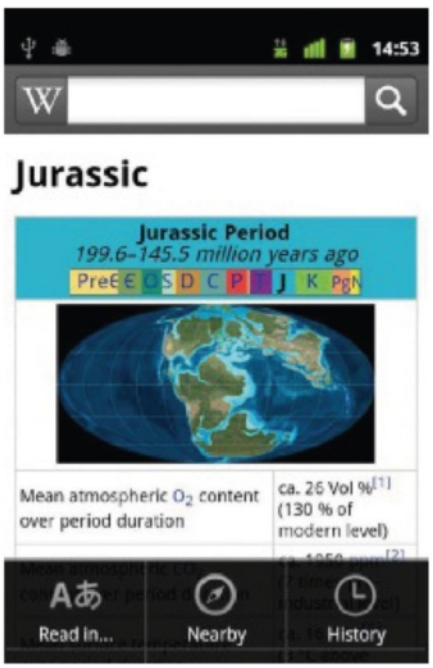
Books & Reference

The internet is the greatest encyclopedia the world has ever seen, with a tremendous amount of accumulated knowledge being added every day. The rise of apps means that we now have greater access to this information than ever before. No longer do you have to sift through raw and unappealing data or attempt to struggle to read out-of-print classics on ill-fitting web pages or as PDFs. With more and more readers adopting eBooks over traditional print, the way information is disseminated has been radically transformed. As a result, eReaders are now big business, as demonstrated by Amazon and Google's heavy investment in the industry to try to control the lion's share of this lucrative market. Hopefully this high level of competition will continue to keep eBook prices down and encourage creative new innovations, such as we've seen from the development of improved in-app searching and the ability to share books across multiple devices.

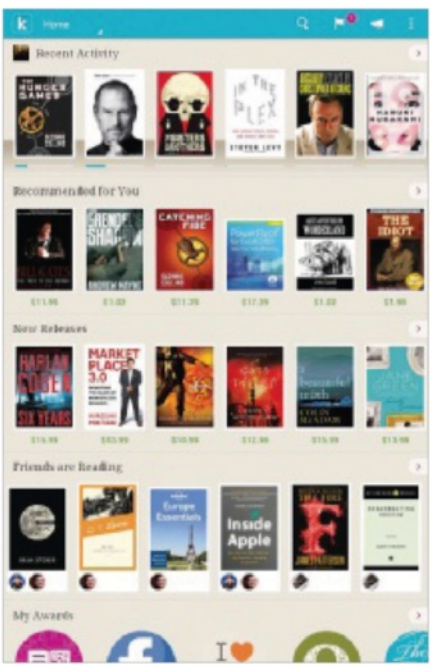


Explore a huge range of books on Kindle, from the latest releases to out-of-copyright classics

> "The way information is disseminated has been radically transformed"



Wikipedia – a trusted source online, now a tap away



Explore Kobo's 1.8 million free eBooks

5 essential apps

Kindle

Price Free **Developer** Amazon Mobile

Over a million books and magazines are available on Kindle, and thousands of them are free. It's a testament to the Play Store that this doesn't make Kindle exceptional in itself. However, the app has some impressive extra features. Simply tap and hold a word to view its definition in the built-in dictionary or use Google and Wikipedia links to get re info. Whispersync also allows you to synchronise bookmarks, notes and the last page you read across multiple devices.

Wikipedia

Price Free **Developer** Wikipedia Foundation

Wikipedia is the community-driven online encyclopedia, containing 20 million articles. Wikipedia for Android is more than just a gateway to the website. You can scan for articles related to an area, making it a great travel guide when abroad. All articles can also be saved to read offline. With the latest app update, you can also edit pages while on the go, making this a complete app with a seamless overall experience.

Goodreads

Price Free **Developer** Goodreads

Goodreads is a clever combination of book discovery tool and social network, where users can upload their library and compare it with friends. Scan barcodes of books when it shops and create a wish list of the latest titles, and read reviews from other users on the books you're interested in. As well as leaving reviews users can leave comments and start discussions with some of the 12 million users that are currently signed up to Goodreads.

Kobo

Price Free **Developer** Kobo Inc

One of the very best eBook libraries around, Kobo has more than two million titles on offer, with 1.8 million of those being free to download. Add to this its cool social features like reading stats that you can compare with friends, and the ability to enter debates on pages and you have bookworm heaven.

Audible for Android

Price Free **Developer** Audible

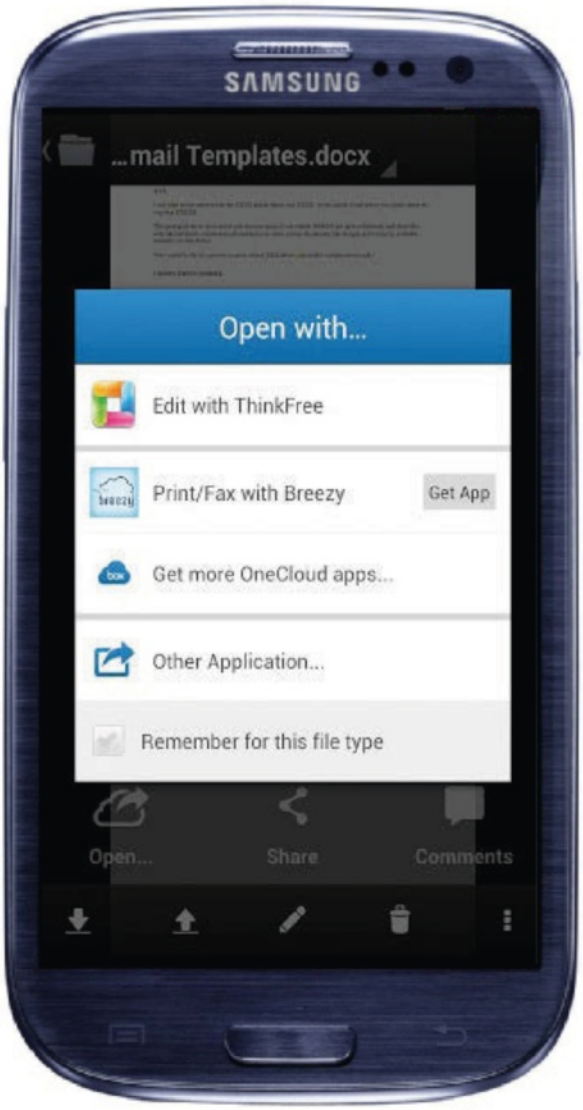
Audible for Android offers over 60,000 audiobooks. For a monthly subscription, you can download as many audiobooks as you like from the in-app store and even listen to them offline. Despite being audio only, this app offers similar functionality to eBook readers, allowing you to attach notes and bookmark your favourite parts.

Business

Mobile phones and big business have been synonymous since the first portable phones came out in the eighties. However, with the right apps on your Galaxy device, smartphones don't just allow you to speak to a client wherever you are. It's even possible to carry your very own portable office suite in your pocket. Increasingly sophisticated programs mean you can open and edit word documents, calculate profit and loss in spreadsheets and work on presentations - all from your phone.

If you don't want to eat up your smartphone memory with desktop-size files, you can also use remote access apps to view and edit the files on your work computer from your device no matter where you are.

Other business apps make the most of your smartphone's other capabilities – for example, to find business clients on the internet, or photograph your receipts so you have proof of purchase. Read on to discover the top five apps we think could give your business the competitive edge.



Upload your media files in Box

Remotely access a computer with LogMeIn

Review your Facebook page's stats with Facebook Pages Manager

5 essential apps

Quickoffice

Price Free **Developer** Google

Create, edit and share Microsoft Office documents on your Galaxy device using Quickoffice. The ability to open and edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint files, as well as PDFs, really adds an extra dimension to your smartphone beyond communication and browsing the internet. The app also supports Google Docs and the file manager works seamlessly with your email attachments, locally saved files and cloud storage accounts, so you have a complete office suite no matter where you are.

LogMeIn Ignition

Price £20.14/$29.99 **Developer** LogMeIn

LogMeIn Ignition for Android lets you remotely access your Mac or PC. While the hefty price tag will put many off this app, it is one of the most robust of its kind out there. In addition to a polished interface and reliable connection, LogMeIn allows you to connect with more than one computer and offers impressive navigation and control over your desktop, even allowing you to make Ctrl+Alt+Delete commands.

Box

Price Free **Developer** Box

Adding to the choice of cloud storage apps available is Box, a one-stop place for storing all your files, big or small. Upload speeds to Box are surprisingly quick and once added to the server, you'll still have full access to the files on any Box account on your phone, tablet or desktop computer. There's also a helpful tutorial included if you're new to using cloud storage on your device and syncing between multiple personal computers and devices.

Facebook Pages Manager

Price Free **Developer** Facebook

Today, Facebook is a key way of interacting with consumers and other potential customers. To that end, most major businesses like to put across their more human side on a Facebook page, and this app allows you to manage of all those pages remotely and in one place. Post, share and monitor analytics all in a few taps within this app.

MDScan: Mobile Doc Scanner

Price £0.64/$0.99 **Developer** STOIK

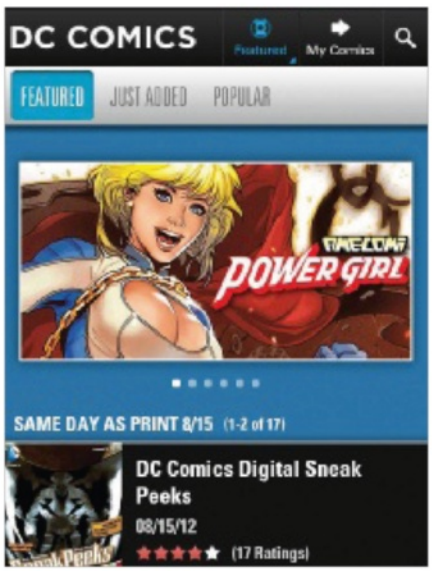
Transform any image into a PDF, using MDScan. Simply point your camera at a document and MDScan automatically detects borders, corrects distortion and equalises brightness to create a clear, legible copy. While the interface is rather disappointing for a paid app, it is highly functional.

Comics

Following the rise of the eBook and reading novels on smartphones, comic books have also gone digital. Perhaps due to their visual nature, it makes sense that comic-book reading apps are so popular on Android. Compared to Apple iPhones, Galaxy smartphones have much larger screens, making it easier to view action-packed pages or to zoom in on panels for detailed study.

The comic-book-reader industry is divided into two camps: those simply providing platforms to view your pre-existing collection of digital comics, such as Dark Horse Comics and those providing a virtual shop front to sell the latest issues, such as the official Marvel Comics and DC Comics apps. One area where the Google Play Store is failing, however, is in creating original comics exclusively for the digital reader. You can even find fully interactive comics, as shown by The Avengers Iron Man comic that puts you in control of our metallic hero and his surroundings.

Read comics such as Dark Horse Comics



DC Comics is great for die-hard comic fans

Access your Marvel and DC comics all in one place

Cyanide & Happiness is a daily web comic

5 essential apps

DC Comics

Price Free **Developer** ComiXology

DC Comics is the official app for reading the adventures of Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman on your Galaxy. Powered by the popular ComiXology comic ereader, all the familiar functions are here. From purchasing comics in-app, to syncing them across devices, and the unique Guided View mode that allows you to view individual panels one by one, which is easier to read on a small screen than a whole page. Featuring nothing but DC content, this app is ideal for die-hard fans.

Cyanide & Happiness

Price £0.61/$0.99 **Developer** Explosm

The hugely popular daily webcomic has finally made its way onto Google Play with its own official Android app. As well as receiving the daily comic, users can go through the archive at will and pick out any comic from the nearly 2.000 that are available. These can be favourited to create a list of your personal highlights, and the app also contains a news section to keep you updated on everything C&H.

Dark Horse Comics

Price Free **Developer** Dark Horse Comics

It is surprising that Dark Horse Comics has been so late to join the comic app market on Android. With the firm being so closely linked with videogame tie-in comics, such as *Mass Effect*, you'd think it would be an early adopter of multimedia reading. The app itself is good, with the store reflecting the publisher's diverse range, including manga as well as superhero comics, and offering single-issue stories at reduced prices and an extensive list of first issues absolutely free.

Marvel Comics

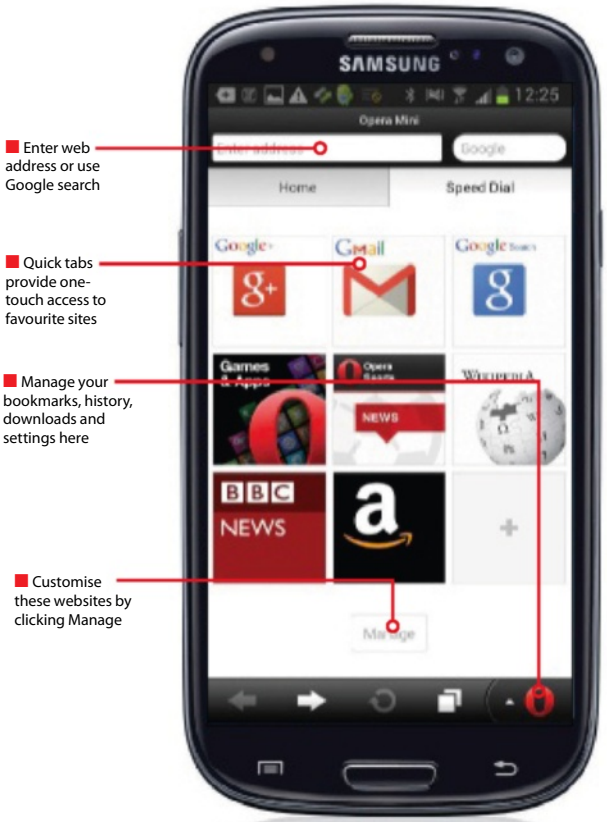
Price Free **Developer** Marvel Comics

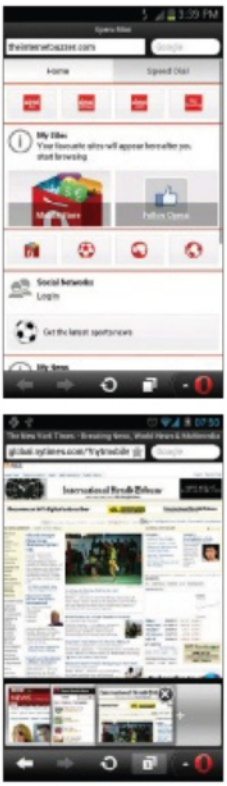
Featuring the world's most popular superheroes, the Marvel Comics app contains hundreds of comic books ready for you to download. The interface offers a variety of different reading views, and comics cater to plenty of ages. The comics aren't free, however, and you'll need to buy issues individually.

Comics

Price Free§z **Developer** ComiXology

Remains the only place on mobile where you can get access to both Marvel and DC Comics in the same place, as well as many others. The app also comes with patent pending technology that allows you to read a comic panel by panel, each one filling your screen.





Communication

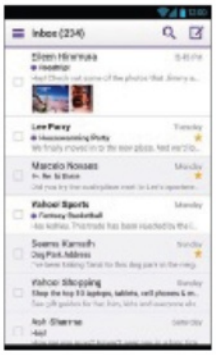
It doesn't seem so long ago that we could only talk over long distances via telephone calls. But over the last 15 years, mobile phones have broadened the spectrum of how we can communicate so that we can now make video calls, send instant messages, files, photos and more – all for free. Some might say, thanks to Google's C2DM (push) technology that allows us to run apps constantly in the background without losing battery life, we have entirely removed the need for SMS and MMS text messages. However, the app market is also full of apps promising to deliver SMS messages and make calls to landlines cheaper than standard networks can, proving that apps can do traditional communication better than non-smartphones can.

We've rounded up our five essential apps to get you started. Read on to discover how to communicate like never before.

Catch up with friends and colleagues all over the world with Skype

Create a group with up to 50 members using WhatsApp Messenger

Use Sky Cloud WiFi to find open Wi-Fi accounts in your area



Manage your Yahoo! email account with their official Mail app

5 essential apps

Opera Mini

Price Free **Developer** Opera Software ASA

In terms of web browsing, Opera Mobile is one of the most established on the Google Play Store. Whether you're looking to browse the web for a casual search or use the internet on a regular basis, Opera caters for both markets merging traditional techniques with some slick new shortcuts. It's remarkably quick to use, but because there are so many features to uncover, it'll take you a while to discover everything it can do. Best of all, tablet users are able to enjoy Opera Mobile for free as well.

Skype

Price Free **Developer** Skype

There are times when making a phonecall isn't possible. Maybe it's because you're overseas and the connection charges are too much. Or because just hearing a voice isn't good enough. This is where Skype comes in, allowing you to log in and make video calls to all your nearest and dearest completely free of charge. The app also contains voice call and instant messaging facilities so you're never out of touch.

Yahoo! Mail

Price Free **Developer** Yahoo! Inc

Yahoo! Mail is a thorough email client that easily matches the likes of Gmail and Hotmail. You can merge all your Yahoo! accounts into this one app and systematically manage your outgoing and incoming emails whenever and wherever you may be. There's a good variety of settings to help you customise your inbox even further and by conencting it to your Yahoo! Mail desktop client, you'll be able to manage your inbox wherever you go.

Sky Cloud WiFi

Price Free **Developer** BSkyB

If you have a Sky broadband account, then use Sky Cloud WiFi to find free and accessible WiFi connections in your local area. As well as pointing out local WiFi hotspots, the app will also notify you of any local attractions, restaurants and shops that have an accessible WiFi network around you.

WhatsApp Messenger

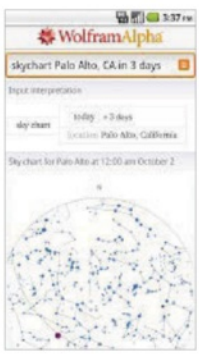
Price Free **Developer** WhatsApp Inc

The app that has seemingly killed off the text message. WhatsApp allows users to stay in contact via instant messages regardless of platform. The app is completely free and also supports multimedia file sharing and group messages containing up to 50 participants, a seriously impressive feature.

Education

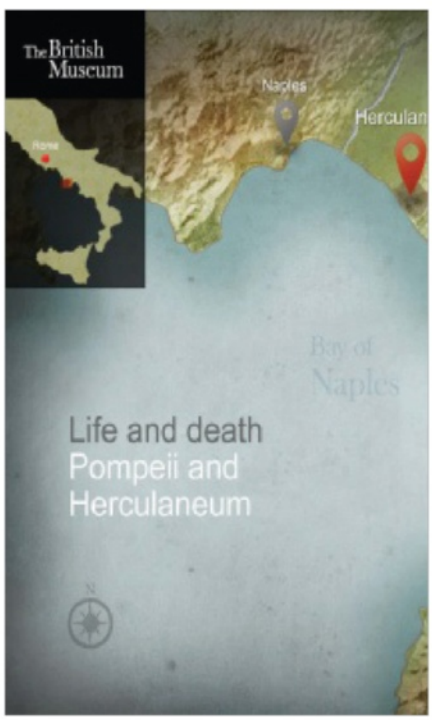
As mobile devices become more integrated into classrooms, educators and students are looking for new ways to apply them to the learning process because these devices can add a new dimension to the subjects. Applications on all of these devices can help automate current classroom (or out-of-the-classroom) processes and present new ways to learn that have previously been unexplored. As we know, it is sometimes the way that a person learns new information itself that affects how well they are able to retain it. Technological progress has made it possible for children and adults alike to learn from almost anywhere and Android is no exception. Whether students need help defining a word, locating the lumbar spine or practising French vocabulary, there's almost always an app for that. Because of the imaginative methods employed by many of today's developers, the innovative methods on offer provide fresh impetus to even the most staid of subjects.

Create beautiful sketches using the How To Draw app on your Galaxy



Ask a question about any subject and WolframAlpha will answer it

"Technology has made it possible to learn from almost anywhere"



Relive history with the Pompeii and Herculaneum app

5 essential apps

Duolingo

Price Free **Developer** Duolingo

One of the most impressive traits to have up your sleeve is the ability to speak another language. This can be a big effort, however Duolingo is changing that with it's brilliant free service. There are several languages on offer, including French and Spanish, and by taking part in the fun memory games the app serves up, you'll soon find yourself on the way to speaking an entirely new tongue.

Pompeii and Herculaneum

Price £1.99/$2.99 **Developer** British Museum

Released to celebrate a huge exhibition at the British Museum, Pompeii and Herculaneum is an interactive app that details the different aspects of life before and after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. There are maps and video clips as well as artefacts that form part of the real exhibition all on show here, all forming a great history app that you can enjoy on your Samsung device.

TED

Price Free **Developer** TED Conferences

TED is filled with various keynotes and speeches from some of the worlds most enterprising people. No matter what your interests may be, TED covers a wide range of categories, so you're guaranteed to find something of interest. Each speech varies in length and you can download them on to your phone or tablet to watch whenever you want. While watching a keynote, check out the discussion feature that lets you see what other people make of it.

How to Draw – Easy Lessons

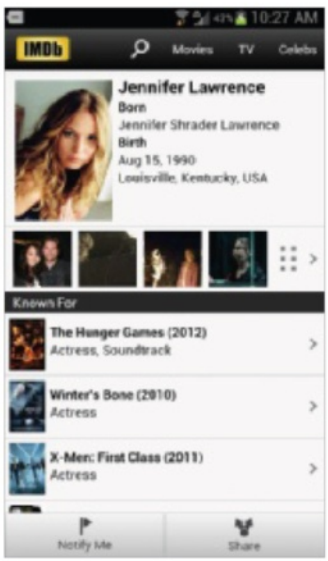
Price Free **Developer** ArtelPlus

Learn to draw a variety of animals and faces with this instructional app. Using your fingers or a stylus, you can draw directly onto a guide, viewing your sketches on top of the guide or viewing them as separate layers, like with tracing paper. Add colours, use different brushes and save your favourite creations.

WolframAlpha

Price £2.48/$3.99 **Developer** Wolfram Alpha

Unlike Google, WolframAlpha computes an answer rather than providing a list of documents or webpages that might contain the answer. Simply type a word, phrase or question into the app and it will analyse it and give you an exact answer, which might take the form of an article, graph, table or illustration.



Find out about your favourite movies in IMDb

RECENT
SHOWS
EDITOR'S PICKS
HTC
New Apple Friend Bar Gives Customers Someone To Talk At About Mac Products
Restoration Of 'Star Spangled Banner' Uncovers Horrifying New Verses
Future: News From The Year 2137 Trailer
Al-Qaeda Calls Off Attack On Nation's Capitol To Spare Life Of 'Twilight' Author

Have a laugh with The Onion

"Inject a little frivolity into a mundane day"

Entertainment

There's never an excuse to be bored when you own a Galaxy device. That's because there's a nearly never-ending selection of fun apps to be discovered in the Entertainment section of the Google Play Store. Many are available for free, or at least available for pocket-money prices, with more being released all the time.

There are some people who dismiss entertainment apps as childish due to the frequent ranking of Tamagotchi-style animated animals or face-changing 'booth' apps, such as Fatbooth and UglyBooth, in Google Play's Top Paid billboard. However, these apps, along with innumerable soundboard apps, can inject a little frivolity into an otherwise mundane day.

For those that need a little more than activity than reading jokes, the Entertainment section also offers some great portal apps that give you a direct link to your favourite websites, including IMDB and The Onion News Network. Other apps actually aid you in seeking out real-life enjoyment, such as looking up movie times and reviews, or finding a concert near you.

5 essential apps

IMDB

Price Free **Developer** IMDB

If you need information about a specific movie, TV show, actor, designer or music composer, then look no further than this app. IMDb is the ultimate catalogue of the TV and movie industry, allowing you to discover new things to watch. There's a dedicated forum for you to discuss topics with other members. You can also leave reviews of your favourite and worst movies and create playlists of your most recommended films that other people should watch.

FPse for Android

Price £2.27/$3.63 **Developer** Schtuck & LDchen

This app gives you a chance to get all nostalgic and remember the days of the original Playstation. FPse is an emulator that allows users to convert their own games and play them on their Android device. Games are optimised for the touch screen, as well as supporting Xbox and Sixaxis controllers should you prefer a more realistic experience.

StumbleUpon

Price Free **Developer** StumbleUpon

StumbleUpon has been a popular social-bookmarking website for years and the app follows the same premise, providing you with entertaining webpages, videos and photos. As you Like and Dislike randomly generated webpages, the app learns your interests and recommends content for you. Webpages can be set as favourites so you can come back to them any time. Unfortunately, the search engine doesn't filter webpages not optimised for smaller screens, sometimes making for awkward reading.

Flixster

Price Free **Developer** Flixster Inc.

Browse the cinemas in your local area to find the times and showings of movies. In some cases you can even book advanced tickets to see the movie and even choose the seats that you want to sit in. Flixster also includes a full streaming service of certain movies for a small subscription fee.

Onion News Network

Price Free **Developer** The Onion

Watch satirical news stories from the popular website The Onion. While it is a shame that this app only includes video content and doesn't make use of the website's many written articles, you are able to sort by show, view editor's picks, access popular segments and search The Onion's archives for spoof stories from yesteryear.

5 essential apps

Barclays PingIt

Price Free **Developer** Barclays Bank

When it comes to convenience, one of the first apps that should spring to mind is Barclays PingIt because of the way it completely removes hassle from banking transaction. The app makes it possible to essentially send money via SMS using just a mobile number. It's even possible to add messages and pictures to your transactions for that more personal touch. The beauty of this app is that it means your account is never beyond your reach.

My Budget Book

Price £1.49/$2.29 **Developer** OneTwoApps

See your balance on the opening screen and track all of your earnings and expenses. Filter data by months, years or financial quarters, sort transactions by category and create graphs to see where your money is going. You can also take action managing multiple accounts and make transfers in-app. With access to so much sensitive information, the app also comes with an optional password and allows you to back up files for safekeeping.

PayPal

Price Free **Developer** PayPal Mobile

Use the PayPal app to manage all your online payments you make on your various credit and debit cards. The app acts as a thorough account manager allowing you to distribute money between your accounts and track the history of payments you've received and sent. Its best use, however, is linking it to your eBay account to create a flawless payment system that you can access and use time and time again.

Google Finance

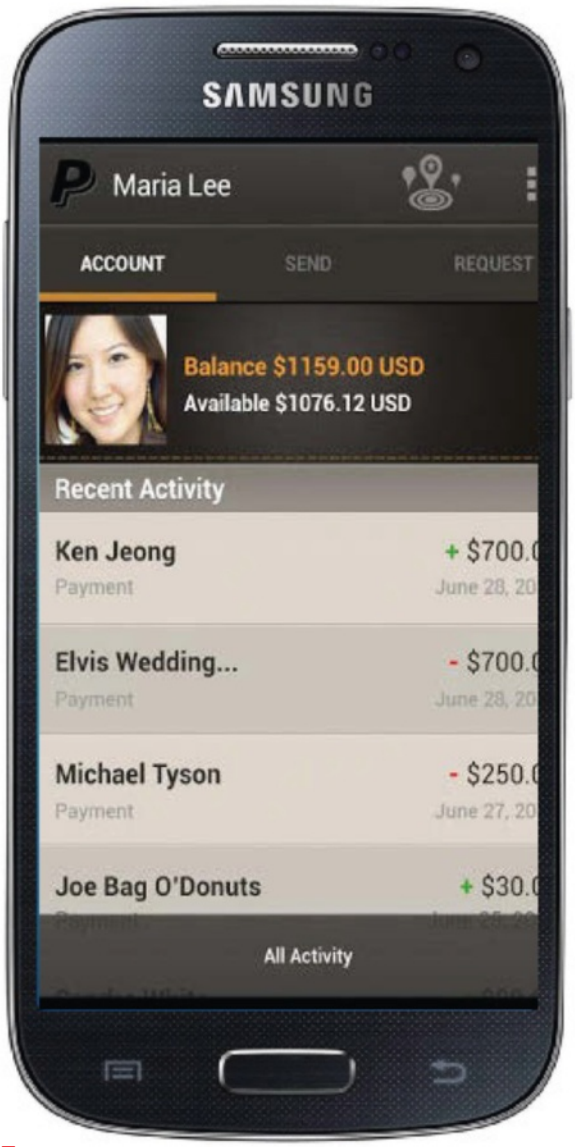
Price Free **Developer** Google Inc.

As with any Google app, you're going to get a brilliant all round app and Finance is no different. Find the latest stocks and share prices with constantly updating charts and read about what's making the latest headlines in the world of global finance.

Money Tab

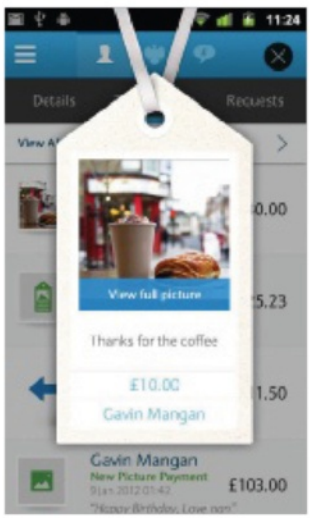
Price £0.69/$0.99 **Developer Talionis Software**

Perhaps the most striking thing about this budgeting app is how clean and smart it looks. Money Tab's interface is designed to make things clear when it comes to your money, and the clever use of colour, icons and a calendar ensures that you can see exactly where your money's going each month.



Make transactions between your PayPal account and bank account

Manage your accounts and make money transfers with My Budget Book



Barclays PingIt removes the hassle from banking transactions

Finance

Managing your money shouldn't get in the way of living your life. That's why personal finance apps are such a natural fit for Android. They let you track your stocks, convert currencies, calculate how much you owe and pay your expenses – all on the go. The best apps are those that take advantage of Android's finger-friendly interface or features such as location-awareness. For example, GPS or Wi-Fi can be helpful in finding the way to the nearest ATM. As so many financial apps are developed by banks, a lot are free or available for a nominal charge, so there's little to lose by trying them. Keeping track of your money can easily become a daunting task, but we have some recommended apps here that range from delivering up-to-the-minute market news, to managing your budget on the go, converting currency, even just helping you split restaurant bills fairly between friends.

It's all about survival in Temple Run 2

Find all your favourite characters from The Simpsons

Enjoy quality games such as Grand Theft Auto III

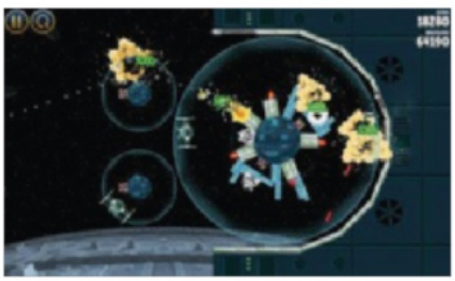
Games

With the power of a Galaxy device in your pocket, it's now possible to play the latest games at any time and in any place. Some true blockbusters await you in the Google Play Store, with action-packed shooters, edge-of-your-seat racers and addictive platformers available.

Of course, controlling these games with accuracy is key. Until you've played a game using touch-controls, it's hard to imagine how intuitive and easy it is. Puzzle and strategy games are easier to handle than ever before and it's possible to rearrange the on-screen buttons to accommodate the size of your device. With in-built accelerometers it's also possible to control games simply by tilting your device.

Here we've rounded up what we think are the best five games currently available for Android devices. Some can be completed in mere minutes, making them perfect for commutes or long queues, whereas others are focused, lengthy titles that offer unlimited hours of fun.

This pocket edition of Minecraft is still very much a full version



Fire Angry Birds at the Pig Star in this franchise cross-over

5 essential apps

Minecraft - Pocket Edition

Price £4.99/$6.99 **Developer** Mojang

The desktop epic has made a brilliant mobile port and has resulted in Minecraft's following growing even more. This is still very much a full version of the game, just scaled down for mobile devices, so you still need to build up your world and of course watch out for zombies when night falls. There's also multiplayer options so you can take on friends and other players from around the world. A great way to pass a few hours – or more!

Temple Run 2

Price Free **Developer** Imangi Studios

The successful follow-up to the original Temple Run has been a massive hit and showcases what Android gaming is really capable of. This time around you're still trying to escape with the treasure but need to navigate new treacherous maps. There's also a great unlock system that lets you buy new characters and power ups that you can use on your mission.

The Simpsons: Tapped Out

Price Free **Developer** EA Swiss Sarl

The Simpsons is the latest franchise to release a tie-in game to its popular TV series. The game tells the story of Homer accidentally setting off a nuclear explosion in Springfield and it becomes your job to rebuild it how you see fit. It can take a while to get going, but you'll soon meet all your favourite characters from The Simpson's brand and even some of the original voice actors too. This game is both addictive and brilliant at the same time!

GTA: Vice City

Price £2.99/$4.99 **Developer** Rockstar Games

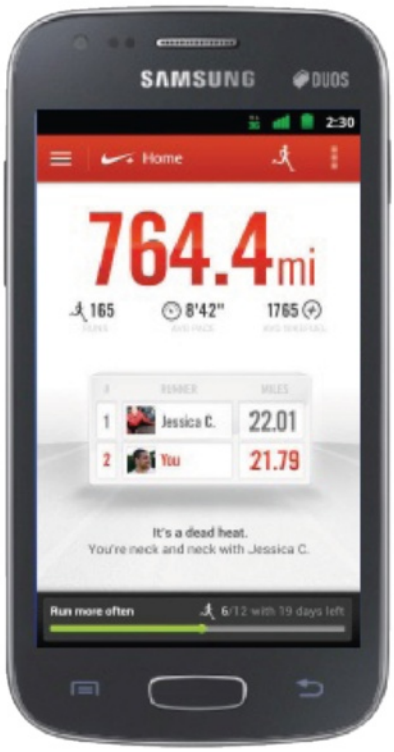
The iconic Grand Theft Auto III has already appeared on Android, and Rockstar done it again by porting 80s based Vice City to mobile devices too. Again, thi s is to mark the tenth anniversary of the game's original console release, and all the chatacters, missions and landscapes that made this game so good first time around are still here. It's the perfect nostalgia trip.

Angry Birds Star Wars

Price Free **Developer** Rovio

The Angry Birds journey to a galaxy far, far away. Recast as the Rebels taking on the Imperial Pigs, you can use the Force to move objects and lightsabers in environments resembling the planet Tatooine and the Death Star. However, beyond these mostly aesthetic changes, the game retains the same physics-based puzzles that made this franchise a phenomenon.

Health & Fitness



Use Nike+ Running to compare to your friends

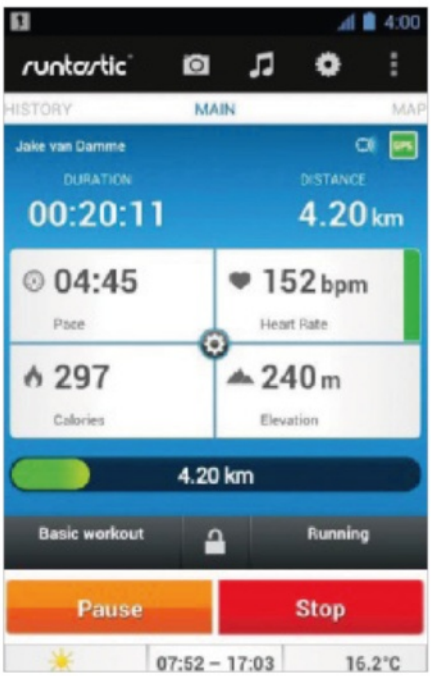
Galaxy devices are packed with clever technologies that can aid in exercise and improve your health. The GPS can be used to track your route and distance in real-time, the web connection can compare food nutrition, the media player can support instructional videos and the camera flash can even monitor your heartbeat.

"Get into shape in next to no time"

Making the most of these features to improve your health is easy thanks to the myriad apps available on the Google Play Store. Nearly all are free, so there's no excuse not to download an app, put on your sports shoes and get running (or whatever other activity takes your interest).

We've scoured the Play Store and rounded up the five essential apps that can improve your health and fitness. You'll find reviews of a distance tracker, heartbeat monitor, all-in-one exercise guide and a calorie counter here. With these apps, you should be able to get into shape in next to no time.

Flee the undead in jogging game Zombies, Run!



Let Runtastic Pro monitor your progress

5 essential apps

Nike+ Running

Price Free **Developer** Nike

From one of the premier names when it comes to sport and fitness, Nike+ Running is an impressive app to take to the streets with you. Using a mixture of GPS and motion detection the app is able to accurately map your running distance as well as pace changes, time, and calories burned off. There's a great motivational side to the app too with social features that allow you to compare yourself to friends and get ranked.

Zombies, Run!

Price £2.99/$3.99 **Developer** Six to Start

Have fun while getting fit with this running game. The premise of the app is that while you are out jogging, you will hear the guttural groans of the undead through your headphones creeping up behind you and you must outrun them to escape. With over 40 runs worth of content and a detailed story, if you don't find stats monitoring your workout motivational, Zombies, Run! is highly recommended.

Endomondo Sports Tracker PRO

Price £1.99/$4.99 **Developer** Endomondo

This tracking app allows you to monitor your duration, distance, speed and calories in a distance-based sport, such as running, cycling or walking. However, the feature that most sets Endomondo apart is its massive sports social network. Here you can interact with other users, compete against their fast times, share routes and workout routines, and even send friends pep talks for the next time they work out.

Fitness Buddy: 300+ Exercises

Price Free **Developer** Azumio

This app includes a comprehensive guide to ways to work out at the gym. Filter by exercise name or the muscle group you want to improve to find the right workout. Each entry comes with step-by-step photos and a detailed description. Plan your exercise regime using the calendar on the opening screen.

Runtastic Pro

Price £4.99/$5.99 **Developer** Runtastic

One of the very best fitness apps out there, Runtastic can monitor your progress in so many ways. You can see your pace as well as how you're performing against your goals. The app also contains voice feedback during exercise, and plenty of social content too.

5 essential apps

AroundMe

Price Free **Developer** Attorno A Me

In a new area and trying to find somewhere to eat? AroundMe quickly identifies your position and then allows you to search for the nearest bank, bar, petrol station, hospital or other local service. The app will then give you a complete list of all the businesses in the category you have tapped on, along with the distance from where you are and a link to Google Maps. You are not restricted to looking in your immediate area, you can also search by zip code, city or neighbourhood.

Jamie's 20 Minute Meals

Price £4.99/$7.69 **Developer** HiveBrain Software

There is no better feeling that pulling off a masterstroke in the kitchen, and this app is the perfect way to help you achieve that. Based on the TV series and book of the same name, 20 Minute Meals is a selection of easy to do recipes, complete with full instructions, as well as plenty of stunning high-res images. The app also contains a range of tutorial videos to help you learn useful skills for the kitchen, all lead by Jamie Oliver.

Gumtree

Price Free **Developer** Gumtree UK

With over a million classified ads this is the perfect place to find the items you need, and with a huge network of sellers also the place to be if you're looking to offload something. Users can see high-res images of the items in question, as well as search by area to find out what is around them. From within the app it is also possible to make contact with potential buyers or sellers in a couple of taps to get more information. Your Gumtree account is now mobile.

Wikitude

Price Free **Developer** Wikitude

Explore your world through augmented reality with Wikitude. Get information on places, read geotagged tweets and even play games. Create multiple 'Worlds,' each with different filters for easy use, and share them with your friends. The downside to this immersive app is that it drains your battery very quickly.

Ancestry

Price Free **Developer** Ancestry.com

Build, update and show off your family tree with this companion app for the popular genealogy website. Edit your family tree on the go and insert photos. However, keep in mind that all of the historic records you will need for serious research are behind a paywall.

Create culinary masterpieces with 20 Minute Meals

You can buy and sell on GumTree from your phone

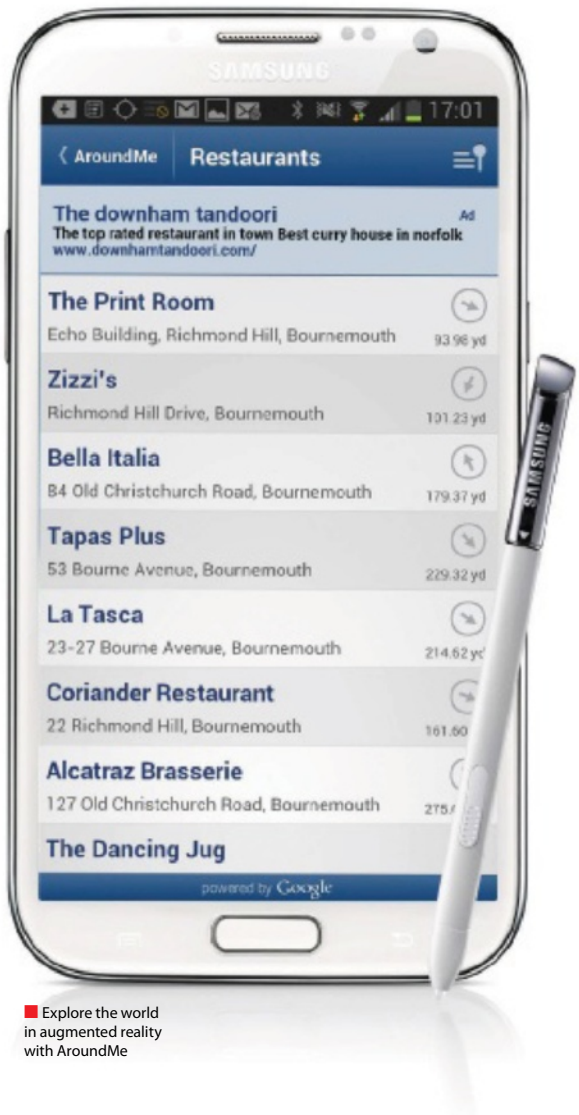
Research your family tree on the go with Ancestry

Lifestyle

Lifestyle apps are often the most interesting and fun, and can also enhance and improve your day-to-day life. Lifestyle is a varied category on the Play Store, with horoscopes next to cocktail-recipe apps. Some of the apps that you come across in this category seem as if they should really be in Shopping, Travel or Social Networking. The only common thread that seems to run through them is that they give the user an opportunity to dedicate free time to some of their favourite hobbies while remaining on the go.

This means lifestyle apps can range from the highly practical, such as offering cooking tips or shopping vouchers, to the more novelty value; for instance, humorous daily quotes or augmented reality games. Here is a list of five great lifestyle apps that offer truly personal services that you can use throughout the day, and offer some entertainment when convenient.

"Lifestyle is a varied category, with horoscopes next to cocktail-recipe apps"



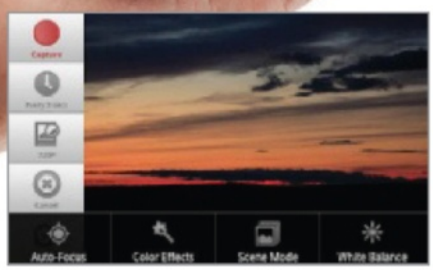
Explore the world in augmented reality with AroundMe

Media & Video

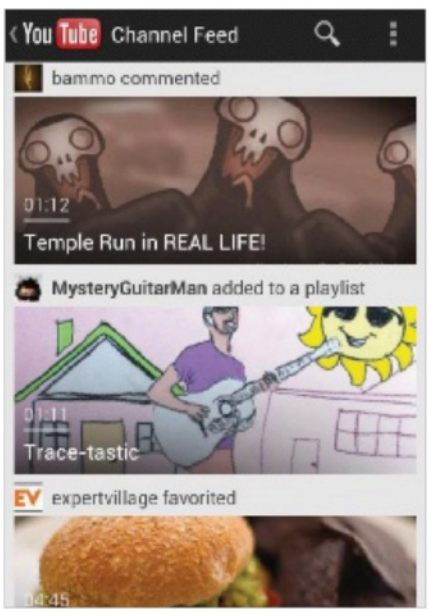
With a dizzying array of multimedia-based apps to be found on the Google Play Store, it's possible to have a never-ending stream of video entertainment on your Galaxy device.

As 3G and 4G networks support increasingly high-quality video streaming, services such as LOVEFiLM and Crackle allow you to watch the latest TV shows and movies on the go. Conventional broadcasters are also trying to get in on the action, with the BBC, Channel 4 and Sky all releasing apps to watch on-demand episodes and even live sports.

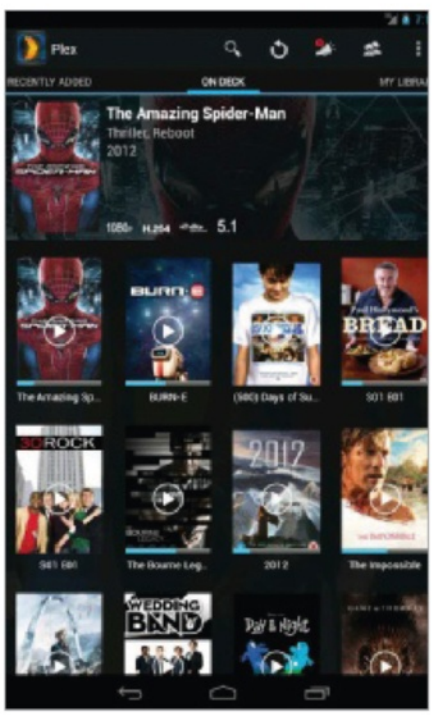
But the era of watching movies at home may not be over just yet. While there are many pretenders to the crown of video-sharing, YouTube remains the king. However, YouTube doesn't rest on its laurels and continues to innovate, as the recent overhaul of its app and introduction of 'preloading' technology shows. Creatives are also harnessing apps such as Kodak Cinema Tools and Photo Tools to make sophisticated videos of their own.



Create stop-motion movies on your device with Lapse It



As with the web version of YouTube, select from the top videos or search for something specific



Plex allows you to sort and organise your video files

5 essential apps

Google Play Movies & TV

Price Free **Developer** Google Inc

Choose to download or stream one of the thousands of movies and TV shows stored in this app. The choice is fantastic and no matter what your tastes are, you'll find something to watch. Prices are pretty competitive when compared to the likes of Netflix and LOVEFiLM and you'll be surprised just how quick Google are on getting the latest blockbusters available through the app. After watching a movie, you can also leave an independent review to let other users know your thoughts about it.

YouTube

Price Free **Developer** Google

For those of you with Android OS 4.0 and up, the app for the world's most popular video-sharing site was recently updated. As well as the features you would expect from YouTube, such as watching videos and adding comments, you can now 'preload' videos, so the latest videos from your favourite channels will be queued for when you next have Wi-Fi access. Your phone now also works as a remote control, sending videos to be watched on your desktop.

Lapse It

Price Free **Developer** Interactive Universe

Shoot your own stop-motion videos and edit them with this arty app. Lapse It is a free download that takes a snapshot every couple of seconds and then strings them all together into one complete time-lapse video. From here, you are offered a full editing suite, such as adjustable focus and white balance, apply filters, as well as the ability to trim videos. The Pro version is available by an in-app purchase and allows you to render videos up to 1080p.

FilmOn Free Live TV & Record

Price Free **Developer** FimOn. TV Europa Live TV Free

If you're away from the TV at home and desperate to catch your favourite show as it goes out, avoiding any spoilers on social medai then FilmOn is ideal. The app allows users to stream Freeview channels in the UK, as well as regional channels in the US and Europe depending on your location, right to your Galaxy.

Plex for Android

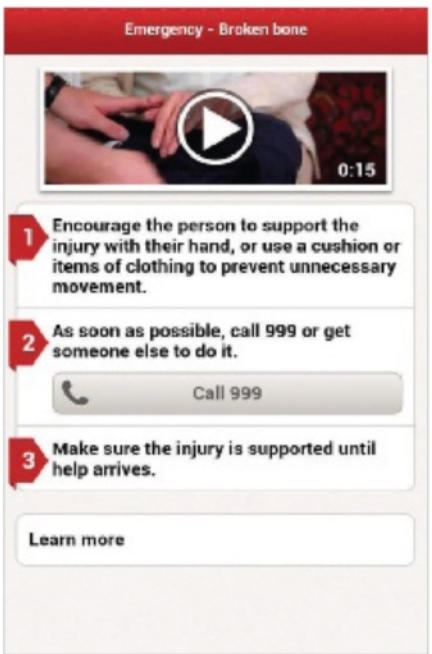
Price £3.05/$4.99 **Developer** Plex

A great organiser for all your content, Plex allows users to sort all their video files so that they can be used in any of the Plex apps. In addition, the app is hooked up to a host of cool content providers like YouTube and Vimeo so you can always find new videos to stream too. This is a very handy addition to your app collection.

Medical

Mobile medicine is a growing sector in the app market. Not so long ago, the mere suggestion that your phone could provide any sort of medical assistance was a joke or, at least, science fiction. However, the ever-growing processing power and memory of smartphones means your device can deliver large amounts of information quickly – ideal during a medical emergency. Some apps let you cut away images of muscle layers to see what lies beneath, while others offer an e-health record system or even a smartphone-based blood pressure monitor. Many of these medical programs can be downloaded and used for a bit of fun, or can be used for educational purposes, while others empower everyday people to make a real difference in the lives of others.

"Empower everyday people to make a real difference to the lives of others"


Emergency - Broken bone
0:15
1 Encourage the person to support the injury with their hand, or use a cushion or items of clothing to prevent unnecessary movement.
2 As soon as possible, call 999 or get someone else to do it.
Call 999
3 Make sure the injury is supported until help arrives.
Learn more

Prepare for any medical emergency with First Aid

Monitor your sleeping patterns with Sleep Diary Pro

Discover the inner workings of the body with Visual Anatomy

5 essential apps

First Aid by British Red Cross

Price Free **Developer** British Red Cross

Designed to be used in an emergency situation, this app is full of step-by-step videos on how to deal with everything from choking to hypothermia. Whereas these guides are quite short to see you through a crisis, the Learn and Prepare sections provide much greater detail to educate the user for future crises. The information is all hosted on the app itself, meaning no internet connection is needed, making it fast and easy to access and without the risk of the signal being lost when it is needed most.

Visual Anatomy

Price £1.60/$2.49 **Developer** Education Mobile

Visual Anatomy contains 87 hi-res images of muscle/ligaments and the skeleton that can be pinch-zoomed and rotated to explore in detail, plus more than 750 features which can be interactively selected. Each feature has its own label and short description and there are several quizzes to test your knowledge. For more expert use, over 1,000 images from *Gray's Anatomy* can be downloaded and accessed offline.

Sleep Diary Pro

Price £1.99/$2.99 **Developer** froggyware

A huge part of staying healthy is ensuring that you get enough sleep each night, and Sleep Diary Pro id an app designed to help you track and monitor your sleeping patterns. The app analysises your sleeping pattern and adjusts your alarm accordingly so that you're woken up during a light sleep period, reducing drowsiness. The app gives each night's sleep a rating based on it's analysis, which uses te accelerometer in your phone to detect movement.

Pregnancy+

Price £1.99/$2.99
Developer Health & Parenting Ltd

This app has already been hugely successful on iOS, and for good reason. Pregnancy+ is one of the most comprehensive help tools around, with a wealth of serious and detailed information about each stage of pregnancy, as well as some clever little touches.

ICE

Price £2.99/$4.99 **Developer** Appventive

This invaluable app stores all your vital information in case something unfortunate happens to you and you need treatment. Users can input as much data as they like and even put in an emergency contact number as well.

Music and Streaming

The death of the music industry has been greatly exaggerated in recent years. While critics bemoan the demise of the physical record, business is booming in the Google Play Store.

Due to limited storage space on your smartphone and a desire to enjoy music across multiple platforms, music streaming, rather than downloading, has emerged as the dominant way to listen to music in recent years. Android is at the forefront with support for Amazon's Cloud Drive and Google Music.

Tied up in licensing laws, the majority of music streaming costs money if you want unlimited access. Apps such as Spotify and Radio are free to download and offer temporary access, before requiring you to sign up to a premium subscription. Other music apps such as SoundHound make use of your device's microphone to identify unknown music.

5 essential apps

Spotify

Price Free **Developer** Spotify

Spotify offers instant access to millions of songs, which you can either arrange as playlists or stream as a never-ending radio. The app is easy to use with various sliders to navigate the vast library of music and lightning-fast performance. As a bonus, each artist comes with a detailed biography and has built-in social networking with Facebook and Last.fm. Although Spotify is a free download, after 48 hours you have to subscribe to the premium service for all access.

Soundcloud

Price Free
Developer Soundcloud

Soundcloud works almost like an audio-based YouTube in that as well as official verisons of tracks, it is full of remixes and covers of the same track. The app is a mixture of streaming service, discovery point and social platform as not only are the big name artists on offer, you can record and upload your own musical effrots and share them with them community. This is very much a musical town square.

TuneIn Radio Pro

Price £4.49/$6.99 **Developer** TuneIn

Should you want to leave the song selection up to someone else, TuneIn gives users access to more than 70,000 radio stations on your device. So now you can listen to all your favourite shows whenever you like, and there is also a huge library of podcasts on offer as well, with more than two million currently in the app. TuneIn even contains live shows and concerts so pretty much all your listening needs are covered.

SoundHound

Price Free **Developer** SoundHound

Another song identification app in SoundHound, but one that offers a great choice of features. After identifying a song, the app offers several streaming options enabling you to listen to the song whenever you want, for a small fee of course. SoundHound has a ridiculously detailed encyclopaedic knowledge of music, so give it a shot!

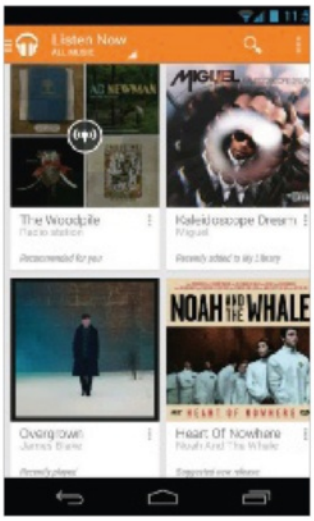
Google Play Music

Price Free **Developer** Google Inc

The announcement by Google of their new All Access service has made this app more relevant than ever. The streaming service rivals Spotify and is filled with playlists and unlimited streaming possibilities for users. For £7.99/$9.99, you can listen to unlimited music via Google Play Music and the first month is free.

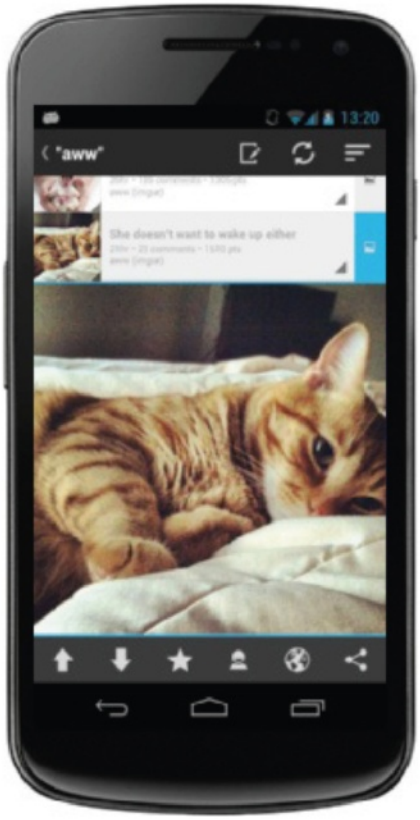
Listen to music wherever you are with SoundCloud

Access thousands of stations with TuneIn Radio Pro



Google's Play Music All Access lets you listen to unlimited music for a small fee

Find new podcasts with Pocket Casts



View favourite news sites in one reader with Reddit

News & Magazines

Arguably, the combination of news text and the mobile platform is a match made in heaven. In fact, the concept of the 24-hour news world has largely been forged around the mobile phone. The smartphone has turned news access on mobile platforms into an accepted and increasingly specialist medium which has encouraged mobile magazines to take firm root in many genres. It is little wonder then that you will see newsstand publications offering free content as an app to partly encourage you to also buy the paper version, or perhaps to try to tempt you with further data coverage upon the payment of a fee. Because this is a data medium, news on a mobile platform can be manipulated in a variety of different ways, which means feeding you information via RSS or aggregating it to combine a variety of sources. Ultimately, news and magazine apps allow you to modify and tailor reports to how you want to receive them.

Save articles to read later with Instapaper

Create your own interest specific magazine with Flipboard

Explore the world of Android with Android magazine

5 essential apps

Pocket Casts

Price £2.70/$3.99 **Developer** shiftyjelly

Pocket Casts is simply a beautiful podcast manager app, that lets you subscribe, listen and enjoy a wide range of podcasts no matter where you are. One of the cleverest features it includes is the wireless backup that creates a digital version of your podcasts just in case you lose or misplace your phone. Although there are plenty of podcast-based apps currently on the Google Play Store, not many can match the level of detail and ease of use that the Pocket Casts app can offer all its users.

Instapaper

Price £1.93/$2.99 **Developer** Mobelux

There are plenty of occasions when you want to sit back and read through a host of articles but simply don't have the time to both find and read them. Instapaper allows you to save any article you find and come back to it later when you have the time. As the name suggests it allows you to create a curated, digital newspaper for yourself. Instapaper also converts your saves into simple white screens to reduce the visual noise that you can get on some sites.

Reddit Sync Pro

Price £1.69/$2.00 **Developer** Sync Apps

This unofficial app for Reddit, the news aggregator website, provides an impressive ICS Holo interface in which to read posts. Some of the social aspects that make Reddit so popular have been lost: there's no way to Friend people and you can't view your own comments easily. However, as a standalone reader, Reddit Sync Pro is very impressive, with day and night-time themes that adjust for lighting, and the option to sync image posts for offline use.

Android Magazine

Price £2.99/$4.99 **Developer** Imagine Publishing

Devoted entirely to the Android market, Android magazine is perfect for both beginners and more experienced Android users. From setting up and getting started to getting more out of your device with essential tips and tricks, this app is a must-have.

Flipboard

Price Free **Developer** Flipboard

The personalised news magazine has been around for some time now, but keeps refreshing itself to stay relevant. Now, users can create their own specific magazines from scratch; naming them and choosing the sources from which content comes. These can then be posted and picked up by other users.

Personalisation

"Customise your Android device as you see fit"

One of Android's overall strengths is its personalisation features, enabling users to tweak notification settings, add widgets and more without any restrictions. It's what sets Android devices apart from the more locked-down operating systems such as iOS, Windows Phone and RIM.

Browse the Google Play Store and you'll discover apps that apply statistic widgets on your home screen, add notification bubbles that can be interacted with and display amazing graphics in the background of your home screen, as well as programs that can give you access to literally millions of ringtones and wallpapers for you to use.

All of these features can be downloaded as apps – most for free – and you don't need to hack or root your device to use them. You're largely free to customise your Android device as you see fit. To help you get started we've rounded up our five favourite personalisation apps. Read on to discover how you can customise your device with amazing graphics, audio and communication notifications.

Add cool effects to your home screen with Nova Launcher Prime

Add extra functions to your lock screen with WidgetLocker

Aviate Beta displays different content depending on the time of day

Go Launcher Ex offers a diverse range of themes

5 essential apps

Nova Launcher Prime

Price £2.60/$3.29 **Developer** TeslaCoil

In terms of customisation, you won't find a more detailed alternate launcher than Nova Launcher Prime. You can tinker with every aspect of your phone's display, and design it exactly how you want it to look like without it being too complicated of an app to understand. To expand the app further, the development team behind the app have released a choice of downloadable themes that you can use alongside the main launcher to help personalise your device.

WidgetLocker Lockscreen

Price £1.99/$2.99 **Developer** TeslaCoil Software

Open up the lock screen to having widgets and shortcuts of your choice with this app, and give yourself the ability to make any slider a shortcut to any app or process. Slider Actions can be customised, for example Slide-to-launch-Camera or Slide-to-call-your-Girlfriend. The slider menu is full of different themes, ranging from the stock Android slider to iOS's MIUI to MotoBlur.

Everything Home (Beta)

Price Free **Developer** Everything.me

Could perhaps be regarded as the ultimate personalisation app. Everything Home places a search bar at the top of your device and takes what you search for and completely moulds your phone to that search term, complete with background image and even suggested apps. The app completely changes the way you can use your phone, not just adding a touch of personalisation, but also improved productivity with your device in hand.

Go Launcher EX

Price Free **Developer** Go Launcher Dev Team

Offering a wide range of themes, icons and resizable widgets, Go Launcher EX also boasts some innovative utility functions. Among these are an efficient and strong app manager – with sorting, hiding app, searching, cleaning memory and refresh – and custom gestures that offer you more convenience and fun.

Aviate Beta

Price Free **Developer** ThumbsUp Labs

The launcher app that is designed to be smarter than the rest, Aviate adapts your Galaxy so whatever time you pick it up, what you need is right there. First thing in the morning get the weather, the traffic updates as you leave for work, and directions to the best places to eat when it gets to lunch time.

Photography

The cameras on smartphones today have evolved into sophisticated kits and it looks like we're reached an era where a digital camera or DSLR is quickly being struck off the list of 'must-have' items in your home. The norm today is 13MP and the success of Instagram has seen a recent trend for vintage-style filters that give your photos a dated, pre-digital look with distorted colours and lens flare. These retro images are a lot of fun and the adding of captions and borders lend themselves well to the social sharing aspect that is built up around these types of photos. With apps like Photoshop Express, you can now access a photo-editing suite on your phone and crop, rotate and adjust the colour of your images to create something truly spectacular. Other apps are also opening up new avenues for so-called 'phone-tography,' with panoramic landscapes and time-lapse videos becoming increasingly popular.

SAMSUNG
DUOS
Photo
Comments
Also in
Walking along Lake McDonald
We had a great hike along Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park with the kids.
This photo was taken on Sep 22, 2009 using a Canon EOS 5D Mark II in Lake McDonald, Montana, United States
You have to register to use the Flickr app
View and add comments on photos
View pictures as thumbnails, in full screen, or as a slideshow
Geotag your pictures so you never forget where they were taken

Mimic DSLR-quality photos with Pro HDR Camera

"Access a photo-editing suite on your phone"

5 essential apps

Snapseed

Price Free **Developer** Nik Software

Snapseed is quite simply one of the very best image editing suites around. The app contains a great number of filter effects to please the hipster in you, but also there are cool focus and tilt shift tools to help edit perspective. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the app however isn't even the end result, it's how you get there. Snapseed is driven by a gesture-heavy interface that requires lots of swipes and taps in order to switch between settings to apply them. It's wondefully pleasing and effortless to use.

Camera Zoom FX

Price £1.79/$2.99 **Developer** androidslide

Seen by many as one, if not the best camera app on Android. Camera Zoom FX allows you to take up to 10 shots a second, some serious speed in terms of a smartphone camera app. It also supports an impressive level of zoom as well as the ability to adjust the button layout as you see fit. Camera Zoom FX is refreshing simply to use and has the features to go with it to make it a very useful app to always have close at hand.

Flickr

Price Free **Developer** Yahoo

Share your photos across social networks with Flickr. Take photos in-app, enhance them with filters, then share across Facebook and Twitter. You also get access to Flickr's community of budding photographers and the ability to view their work and your own in full-screen browsing and slideshows. Here you can also share the stories behind your pictures. To help keep track of your photos, the app also uses geotagging so you don't forget where they were taken.

Pro HDR Camera

Price £1.28/$1.99 **Developer** EyeApps

Mimic DSLR-quality photography with this app. It takes two exposures and then combines them together; you can then make adjustments to the image. The results are extremely high quality and the sliders to adjust brightness, contrast, saturation are very responsive.

Adobe Photoshop Express

Price Free **Developer** Adobe Systems

This app is derived from the much-respected suite of editing programs. It only enables users to carry out basic edits, such as cropping, rotating, adjusting colour and adding artistic effects, but this far exceeds anything other Android photo-editing apps offer.

5 essential apps

Adobe Reader
Price Free **Developer** Adobe Systems

The quintessential PDF reader, Adobe Reader, allows you to quickly view PDF documents from emails, the web, or any app that will support it. You can search text to find specific words, view pages individually or scroll through them. Use bookmarks to jump directly to pages, provide feedback with a highlight tool and the ability to add post-it notes anywhere on a document. You can also share files between your smartphone and your desktop.

Google Goggles
Price Free **Developer** Google

Search by taking a picture with Google Goggles. Point your smartphone camera at a painting, a famous landmark, a barcode or QR code, a product, a storefront, or a popular image. If Goggles finds it in its database, it will provide you with useful information. The app will even translate images of text into different languages and solve Sudoku puzzles. This is a very impressive piece of tech, yet it really is as simple to use as pointing and clicking your camera.

Dropbox
Price Free **Developer** Dropbox Inc

When it comes to staying productive, Dropbox is an essential tool to have close to you. The cloud service gives you a healthy amount of space for free, and means you can access any of your uploaded files on your device, no matter where you are. So if you want to make a quick amendment to that report, you can do so on the commute home, even though you've left the office. Dropbox works across all devices and supports most file types meaning that pretty much anything from your desktop is suddenly within reach on your device.

Google Drive
Price Free **Developer** Google Inc

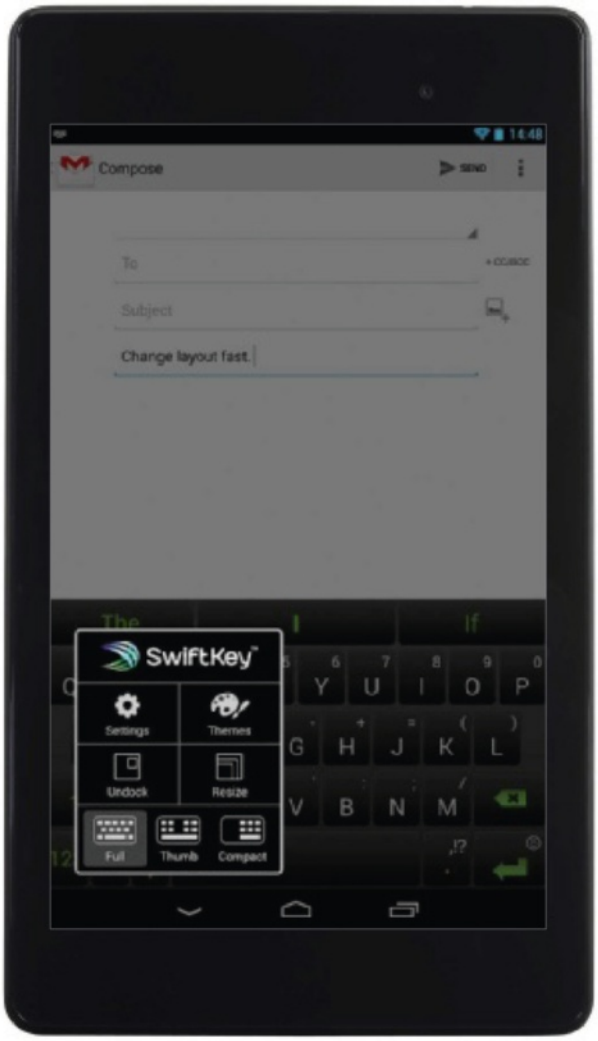
Google Drive serves as an extension of your desktop and even mobile device storage space. The app allows you to upload files from anywhere, so all your images can be kept together, regardless of where you captured them, and they're all easy to get to. Much like Dropbox, it's a fantastic productivity tool.

SwiftKey Keyboard
Price £2.99/$3.99 **Developer** SwiftKey

The ultimate piece of productivity, SwftKey's intelligent keyboard gives you more options than you ever thought possible when it comes to typing. Whether it be learning your common words or just the placement on screen, anything is possible.

Add annotations to PDFs using Adobe Reader

Identify art with the clever Google Goggles



SwiftKey gives you even more keyboard options

"Become far more efficient and productive"

Productivity

Take control of your life with apps. The Play Store is filled with apps that enable you to be more efficient and productive, either through working while on the go or by discovering more about the world around you.

There are apps that let you take notes and sync them with any device in the world; store photos, videos and documents in the cloud; share them with friends; and browse the web with the same bookmarks and passwords that you saved on your desktop computer. Unbelievably, your Android device can also take a photo of any landmark, product or piece of art and then instantly tell you more about it. It's staggering technology wrapped in a number of easy-to-use interfaces.

But productivity doesn't have to be limited to self-improvement. There are plenty of productivity apps in the Google Play Store that also boost your phone – and therefore, of course, boost you.

Here we have assembled five apps that help you improve your productivity through their sheer innovative functionality.

Shopping

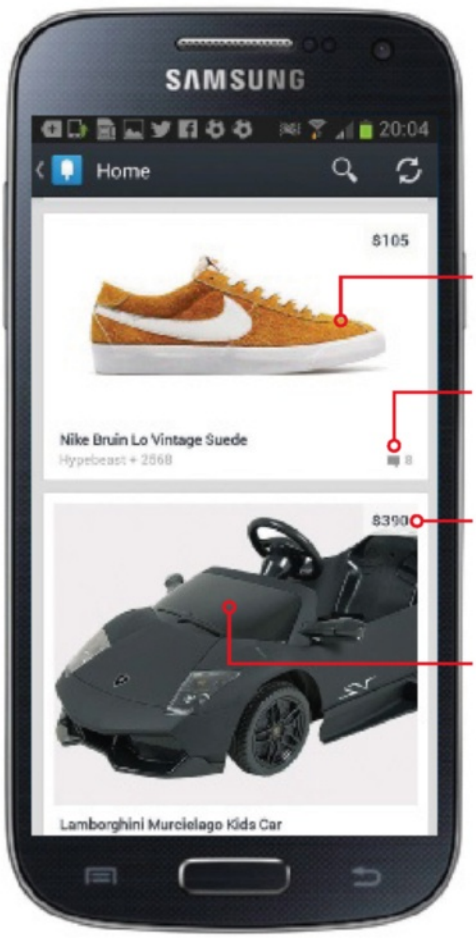
First we fell in love with shopping online, now it's all about doing it on the move. Shopping apps allow you to search for products you want, wherever you are.

Some complain that shopping apps are driving purchasers away from local shops and sending them to online vendors, pointing to the eBay and Android mobile apps as examples. While this is certainly true to some extent, this is only in the interest of finding the best deal for the consumer.

There are also many apps designed explicitly to accommodate and promote local businesses. For example, voucher apps such as Groupon, LivingSocial and Vouchercloud exist to tempt shoppers into visiting nearby businesses with special offers.

In short, shopping with Android apps is efficient, direct and enables you to find the best price for what you want.

Purchase individually made items from Etsy



Shop on Amazon from your mobile device

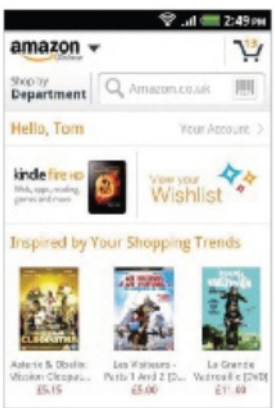
View photos of products at various angles with Fancy

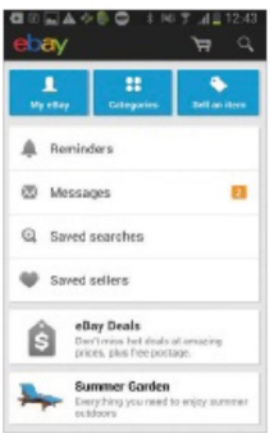
Reader ratings are included for each product

Be warned, products are often well above high-street prices

If you see something you like on Fancy, click here and it will direct you to a website where you can buy it

Manage your account on the go with the eBay app





5 essential apps

Etsy

Price Free **Developer** Etsy, Inc.

Put together like a combination of eBay and fancy, Etsy is designed to be an enticing marketplace where items are posted by others for you to admire and buy. There are small businesses as well as individuals looking to take advantage of the space Etsy provides, and with the ability to follow different users and create a newsfeed you can make this a very personal shopping experience, customised to your interests. There are also sections to browse through and the whole product is wrapped up in great imagery. Staying just a window shopper will be tough.

Amazon

Price Free **Developer** Amazon

The website that has almost become the world's high street online is also very usefu as an app on your homescreen. Amazon Mobile allows you to sign in with your account and do all the usual browsing you would do, but throws in some interesting added features like the ability to scan the barcodes of products to find them within the Amazon database. Compare prices across different merchants too to ensure that you get the very best deal.

eBay

Price Free **Developer** eBay Mobile

The official app for the shopping service that we have all become familar with needs little introduction. This app allows you to fully manage your buying and selling activity no matter where you might find yourself, something very useful. Just ask any eBay addict. You can carry out transactions in-app, and thanks to an interface re-design in the not too distant past, it's extremely easy to use.

Fancy

Price Free **Developer** thingd

Similar to Pinterest, Fancy is all about finding and sharing cool things online, with the significant difference that on Fancy you can actually buy them. This is secondary however to the endless social aspect, with the app focused on rating photos of stylish products and commenting on them.

Vouchercloud

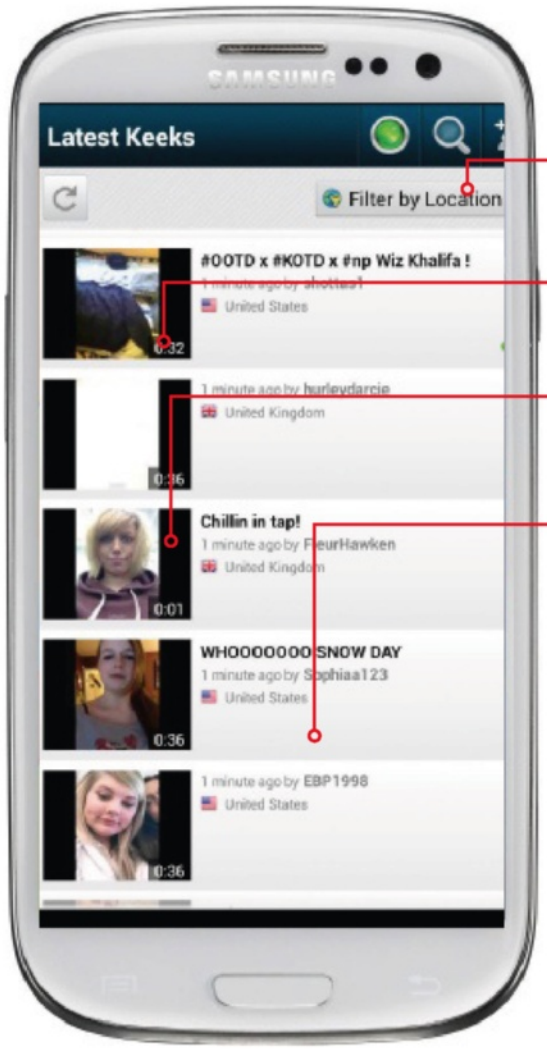
Price Free **Developer** Invitation Digital

Free to download and use, Vouchercloud has the biggest selection of mobile discount vouchers – with a mix of big brand names and local shops. Deals include retail, fine dining, cinema tickets and much more, but you can filter between types of categories using colour-coded headings at the top of the screen.

Social

Perhaps the greatest aspects of owning a smartphone is the sheer number of opportunities to stay in touch with friends, family and the wider world. Thanks to the amazing number of social networking apps available for Android devices, there's a wealth of content out there waiting to be discovered. Some of the very best apps enable you to chat with friends in real-time, share and view photos, send free messages, read tweets from friends and the famous alike, 'check-in' at locations to share your current whereabouts, plus plenty more. Incredibly, all of these apps are free to download and use.

Read on to discover five essential social networking apps that enable you to stay in touch and tell the world what you're thinking. You'll wonder how everyone managed to communicate with only landline telephones just two decades ago.

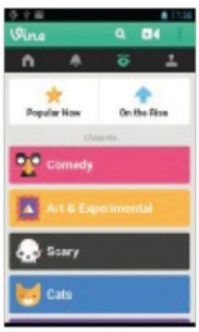


Get your Facebook news on your home screen with Facebook Home

Filter videos by locations near you

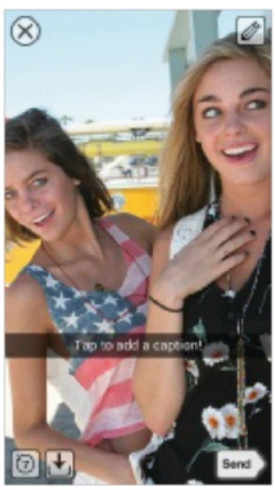
Keek videos need to be less than two minutes in length

Add your own video to earn Keek points



You can follow an uploader by opening their Keek profile

Google+ is the best social app around



Send text and picture messages with an expiry date in Snapchat

"Tell the world what you're thinking"

5 essential apps

Snapchat

Price Free **Developer** Snapchat, Inc

Snapchat is the new wave of texting that's recently become very popular owing to its constant usage by teenagers. Users can send a creatively-enhanced picture or text message to a friend or group of friends and set a time-limit as to how long they can view it for (up to 10 seconds). After that the message is deleted - both at the receiver's end and from the Snapchat servers. If a screenshot was taken, the sender will be notified. Cool, innovative and fun, Snapchat has taken messaging to a whole new level.

Home

Price Free **Developer** Facebook

If you're a user who keeps checking their Facebook profile a minimum of ten times in a day, then Facebook Home is for you. It's basically a launcher that puts all your Facebook friend's posts and photos on your home screen for you to get instant updates of what's going in your social network. Download Facebook Messenger to discover Chat Heads, where you can chat with friends from other apps. At present, Home is only available on select Samsung devices.

Keek – Social Video

Price Free **Developer** Keek Inc

Capture and share short videos with a big community of fellow video bloggers on Keek. The app includes all the social functions you'd expect and it's remarkably easy to meet new people. You'll also find an integrated video recorder that lets you post all your videos directly to the site for everyone else to see. There are plenty of additional features to discover the more videos you upload and after a few goes at using it, you'll find it to be on par with YouTube.

Vine

Price Free **Developer** Vine

Along with the already mentioned Snapchat, Vine has been a download that has changed the landscape of the social network. Suddenly, because of the six second videos you create here, short and often stop-motion videos are an absolute must in a social app. So join the revolution and download Vine.

Instagram

Price Free **Developer** Instagram

While the likes of Snapchat have come along and done something different with photo-sharing, Instagram remains the heavyweight of photo apps thanks to its huge community and of course the cool range of filters you can place on your image uploads. This is an app you must have on your smartphone.

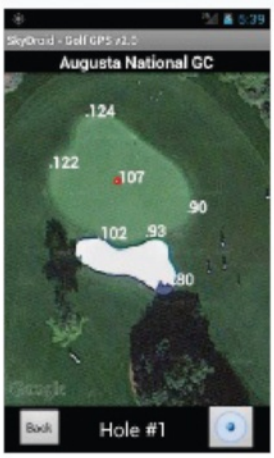
Sports

Around 20 years ago, following your favourite sports team was a challenge, as you had to buy newspapers, watch televisions and listen to the radio in order to get the right results at the right time. How things have changed! The sonic boom, that was the internet, left our computer screens and fell into our laps, and now wherever you go, whatever your sport, the Google Play Store has an app that means you're never more than a few seconds away from up-to-the-second information about your team or your own athletic pursuits.

You used to have to count the hours until your favourite sports team took the field or court, and there was precious little to do between games. Fortunately, now there are apps that help you while away the hours until kick-off. There are tools for tracking scores in football, cricket, golf, tennis and even fencing; playing fantasy sports games; and much more.

Annotate and analyse athletes' performances with Coach's Eye

Follow the race and track your favourite drivers with F1 2013



SkyDroid gives you some great golfing advice

Get the latest results from Sky Sports News

5 essential apps

Coach's Eye

Price £3.12/$4.99 **Developer** TechSmith Corp

Analyse everything from your golf swing to your weightlifting form with Coach's Eye. It is straightforward enough to use: film athletes practising, then review the footage in-app in slow motion, using the flywheel to fluidly and precisely scroll through video to identify and review techniques. You can also draw onto the video using lines, arrows, circles, squares and freehand tools, as well as record audio over the top of footage. This app is very simple to use, but could give athletes a winning edge.

SkyDroid – Golf GPS

Price £1.28/$1.99 Developer Paul Goldstein

In the game of golf, even the professionals need a caddie alongside them to give them advice and help read the course. This app aims to bring such options to us mere mortals too by offering up all the information you could need before each shot. The app uses GPS to pinpoint your postion so you know how far you are from the hole, as well as how close you are to the various hazards of the course. SkyDroid even has course maps you can refer to.

F1 2013 Timing Premium

Price £9.99/$13.99 **Developer** Soft Pauer

The sort of information and technology you gain access to by using the app are the sort of things you would expect to see used by the pit teams in F1. The app allows users to follow the race via a live infographic that tracks each driver, as well as focus on individuals. You can fill your screen with times, or if you want to get to know the drivers a little more there are full and in-depth profiles on each of them.

ESPN Goals

Price Free **Developer** ESPN Digital

If you're an avid football fan, then the ESPN Goals app is perfect for you. Track your favourite team and see the latest squad news, results and headlines involving them. After every match weekend a highlights reel of key moments is uploaded to the app for you to watch.

Sky Sports News

Price Free **Developer** BSkyB

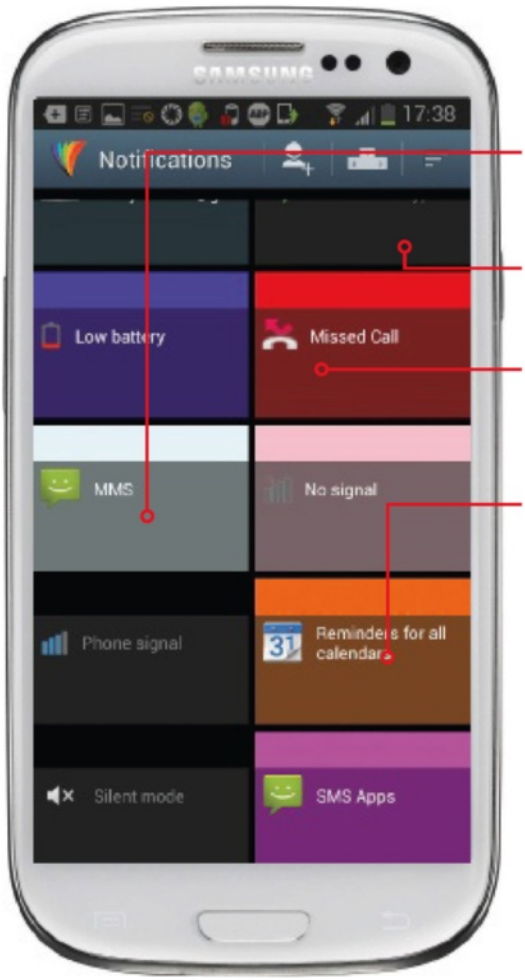
Get the latest sporting news from the app for the dedicated channel. For the most part, the app is a rather pedestrian news ticker consisting of lists of stories, varied between news bulletins and video. Other features include the ability to stream Sky Sports News Radio and, for Sky Sports subscribers, to watch live TV.

Tools

Smartphones are essentially digital Swiss Army knives, except instead of a spork and a corkscrew, it comes with a QR scanner or a language translator. With a few simple taps in the Google Play Store, you can add or remove as many tools as you like and customise your device for different tasks.

The apps in the Tools category have two subtle distinctions. Firstly, there are those designed to improve your life. When you're lost in the dark, there is a flashlight. Need to measure the length of a doorway, or even the height of a house? Your camera plus an app packed with clever equations can do the maths for you. Want to change the TV channel but can't find the remote? There is a universal remote app that will do it from your smartphone.

Then there are those apps that are designed to improve your smartphone. They boost your battery life, provide added security protections, or just allow you to run Flash animations in your web browser. These kind of apps may seem less important but if your device is supercharged, so are you.

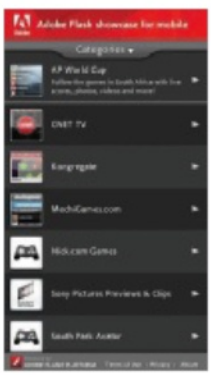


Choose from a variety of colours

Add custom animations to different areas of your phone

Notice the LED change colour throughout

Use the home menu to track all your changes



Keep track of all your web apps in one place with Adobe Air

Sidebar Pro allows you to pull up a side menu

Translate from almost any language quickly with Google Translate

"Customise your device for different tasks"

5 essential apps

Adobe Air

Price Free **Developer** Adobe

Adobe AIR is the ultimate hub for any web apps you often use on your device. It monitors your history of any web apps you've interacted with, providing you with quick access to them whenever you need them. At any point you can perform a remote wipe on anything stored to help quicken up the app a little, if necessary. If you've other Adobe apps installed on your device, you can use Adobe Air to sync them all together.

Tiny Flashlight & LED

Price Free **Developer** Nikolay Ananiev

Next time you're caught in a blackout, turn your device into a torch with this app. The camera flash can be switched on for an extended time from the home screen, but under the menu screen you can also turn your screen into a bright white light. Other in-app features mostly exist for novelty value, such as a strobe light, orange warning lights and red and blue police lights. One standout extra, though, also allows you to type in text and then flashes it as Morse code.

Sidebar Pro

Price £1.28/$1.99 **Developer** Mohammad Adib

A really great tool for being productive every where on your Android, Sidebar Pro places a new menu bar on your Galaxy screen that can be pulled up at any time, from within any app. Within this menu bar users can place shortcuts to any app or function on their phone, bringing everything closer.

Google Translate

Price Free **Developer** Google

A perilous situation for any of us is having to try and communicate with someone without a common language. Yes, we have tried your handy phrasebook but you're still struggling, this is where Google Translate comes in. Speak or type anything into the app and it can be translated into almost any language. Hear it said out loud or printed so your communication is clear.

LightFlow LED

Price £1.49/$2.49 **Developer** Rage Consulting

One of the coolest ways of personalising your device is to use LightFlow, an ingenious app that lets you tinker and implement a wide variety of designs throughout your phone. As well as adding colours to your notifications, you can also alter the sounds and vibration settings to really personalise your device.

5 essential apps

SpeedView Pro

Price £1.83/$2.99 **Developer** Code Sector

SpeedView Pro is an advanced speedometer that connects to your phone's GPS system to show you your current speed and other essential driving data. The interactive HUD can be customised to show other data that can then be sent to your desktop computer for you to take a look at, and you can then attach your phone to a windshield mount to see live stats as you start driving. There's a free version available from the Google Play Store but it doesn't include half the amount of features that the Pro version does.

Hailo – The Taxi Magnet

Price Free **Developer** Hailo

Use Hailo to scan for a taxi in your area, then – with two quick taps – get their attention and tell them your location. Track your cab in real-time, so there is no reason to hang outside waiting for them. After you get to your destination, payment is taken from your card automatically and a receipt is emailed to you. Currently Hailo is only available in London, Dublin, Toronto, Chicago and Boston, but it plans to be available in 100 cities worldwide by 2015.

WhatGas Petrol Prices

Price Free **Developer** whatgas.com

WhatGas flags up petrol stations in your area on a map. Tapping on a flag will reveal the petrol station's unleaded and diesel prices as submitted by other local users, and tapping on the top bar will reveal the best overall price in the area. When you go to fill up, if you spot their prices have changed, you can submit new prices yourself and update the app. Similarly, if you also spot there is a petrol station near you that has been missed, you can add it to the map yourself.

Tube Map

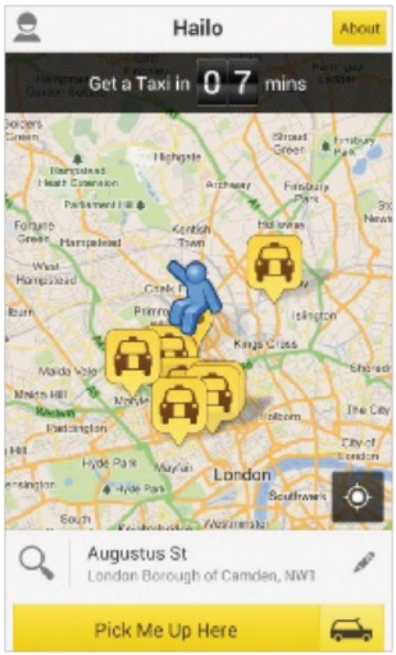
Price Free **Developer** mXData

Whether you're a regular London commuter or just a day visitor, the usefulness of having this app close on hand is unspeakable. Get live updates as well as plan your route and use maps offline.

CityMapper

Price Free **Developer** CityMapper Limited

For the moment this app only applies to two cities - London and New York, but the potential is exciting nonetheless. The entire transport network ranging across all types is covered, and linked together to give you the most comprehensive directions possible as you move across the city.



Catch a cab with ease using Hailo

Transport

What better method of accessing information relating to transport than via a mobile phone, and what better time to do it than while you are on the move? The two mediums are truly synergistic and both change their content regularly. Transport-related apps have the ability to access timetables, for example, in real-time. As such, they can pick up late changes in those timetables due to adverse weather conditions or problems on the route. Some apps enable you to plan your route and will offer advice as you do so, while others give you a real-time movement monitor. By utilising your phone's GPS system, they can see where you are relative to the rest of the country or find out how close you are to the next station – endlessly useful if you find yourself in an unfamiliar location. Information like this also enables you to ring ahead to friends, family and business colleagues with up-to-date information regarding any unexpected delays.

Get the best price when filling your car using WhatGas Petrol Prices

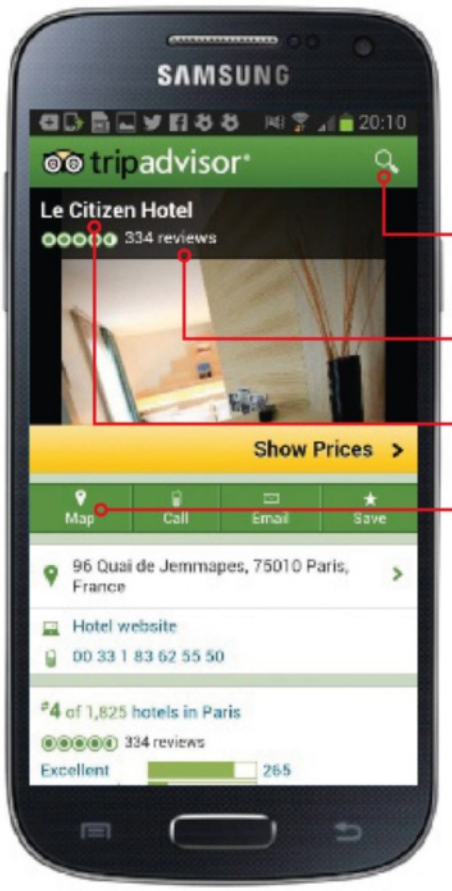
Get live Tube updates straight to your phone

Track your speed and other car information in SpeedView

Travel & Local

Perhaps the biggest advantage to owning an Android device is that it's impossible to get lost. At an instant you can pull up an entire map of the world, manipulate it with your fingers, see yourself pinpointed and get directions to any destination. Pulling up to the side of the road to ask a stranger directions is now a thing of the past. As is carrying (and folding) a paper map.

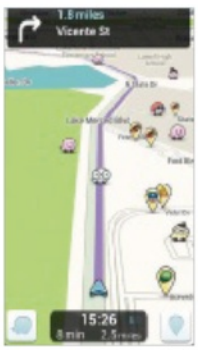
Of course, there's a wealth of further benefits to owning a smartphone. Thanks to the plethora of apps in the Play Store, you can see live flight details for any commercial plane in the world, see your seat on a plane map, view departures and arrivals for any airport, navigate the world's streets in first-person and then see the entire surface of the planet in 3D. There's a mind-boggling array – all accessed through the device in your pocket.



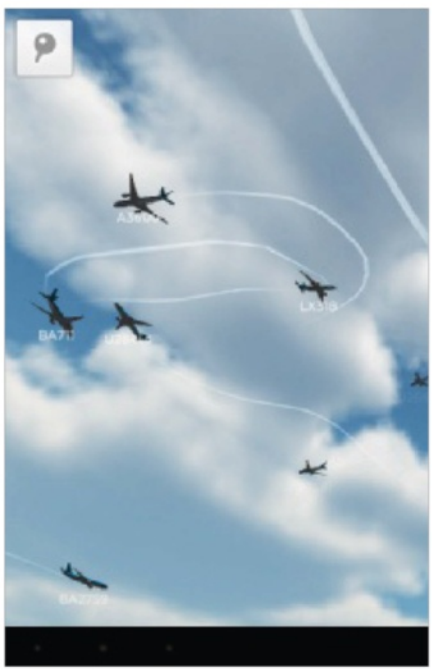
- TripAdvisor's search bar makes it easy to look up any location in the world
- Browse millions of user-generated reviews and upload your own
- Filter entries by hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions
- Use Near Me Now to scan for local attractions and access maps

"You can pull up an entire map of the world and see yourself pinpointed"

Moovit helps you to find your way on public transport



Crowdsource your traffic news with Waze Social GPS



Take a 3D look at air traffic in the skies above you and track individual flights

5 essential apps

Moovit

Price Free **Developer** Moovit

Moovit is a similar system to Waze, only based around public transport. Sourcing it's information from the crowd – commuters and users, Moovit provides real-time data on the state of public transport, so you can always find the quickest route home. You can look at specific stops and train lines as well plan out trips, and then adjust them as things change. Every user contributes just by travelling with the app open, with the data keeping everyone else aware of how well, or not, that train or bus is moving.

Waze Social GPS Traffic & Gas

Price Free **Developer** Waze

This community-based GPS app allows you to join forces with other drivers nearby to outsmart traffic while driving. Crowdsourcing information from its 30 million users, Waze gives you real-time traffic reports on everything from accidents and speed cameras to petrol prices and weather conditions. The social function also extends to Facebook and the option to have Map Chats with other users. The app also supports voice control to enable hands-free use.

Plane Finder 3D

Price £1.99/$2.99 **Developer** Pinkfoot Limited

While there are plenty of apps that allow you to track the planes in the skies above us, few are as cool or striking as Plane Finder 3D. This app involves a 3D look at air traffic above us, and allows users to get details and track individual flights at will. The Fly Me feature allows users to focus on a certain flight and take in the surrounding air traffic and the ground terrain from the perspective of a selected plane.

TripAdvisor Hotels Flights

Price Free **Developer** TripAdvisor

The renowned travel website, where users rate their experience at tourist attractions, is now in app form. A simplified version of the site, you can access all of its web listings and write reviews on the go. Better still, you can scan for hotels, restaurants and attractions in your area.

CoPilot GPS

Price Free **Developer** ALK Technologies

CoPilot has several apps on the Google Play Store, but their GPS app is the best of them all. This app works an offline route planner, enabling you to get directions from one place to another without being connected to a Wi-Fi network. All your routes can be saved for later use, if necessary.

Weather

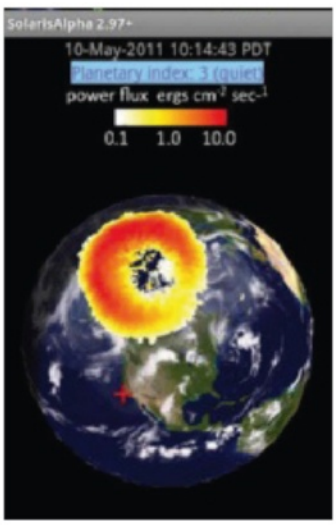
We've come to expect weather forecasts to maybe not be absolutely accurate, but at least to give us a general idea of what's in store for the next day or so. When we're looking forward to an outdoor event, we always check the forecasted conditions. Luckily there are plenty of apps that will let you check the weather at any time from anywhere. Many of us also have lines of work which benefit from regular weather updates. As such, it is crucial to know the weather forecast at the drop of a hat. The weather app built in to Galaxy phones is a simple, no-fluff, no-nonsense weather app. It does its job well, but any weather app can give you the highs and lows for the day. Often you might want more information such as the humidity, wind speeds or sunrise and sunset times and other data.

"Check the weather at any time from anywhere"

Get a 15-day forecast with Accuweather

Explore the BBC's weather app – a new addition to the Store

WeatherPro offers satellite images with its regular updates



Learn about the sun in Solaris Alpha

5 essential apps

Accuweather

Price Free **Developer** Accuweather.com

Packaged in a sleek, clean user interface, Accuweather is packed with information. Daily forecasts are displayed on the main screen, with a graphic and temperature for your current location in the top half, which can be used as a slider for an hour-by-hour forecast; and details such as humidity, visibility, sunrise, sunset and wind direction listed in the lower half. The app also offers a broader 15-day prediction, radar images of cloud cover superimposed on Google Maps, and daily video forecasts from **Accuweather.com**.

Met Office Weather Application

Price Free **Developer** Met Office

Save up to ten locations for local weather forecasts or view the UK weather map in its entirety with this official Met Office app. The slider at the bottom of the map allows you to skim through hour-by-hour breakdowns of the weather, while tapping icons on the right allows you to vary how the weather is displayed, such as using rainfall radar images or pressure symbols. It'll also alert you to severe weather warnings.

BBC Weather

Price Free **Developer** BBC

A fairly new app on Google Play, BBC Weather is smart and simple, giving you all you need in a weather app. Using location it quickly gives you the current information where you are, as well as a five day forecast. If thats not enough you can swipe left to see an hour-by-hour breakdown of conditions and temperature. You can also search for any location around the world and access the same features.

Solaris Alpha

Price £1.23/$1.99 **Developer** Tomasso

There's a lot of depth in this app and there's no doubt you can learn something about the biggest star in our Solar System. You can find 3D ultraviolet sun maps that give you a tour of the sun, as well as realtime image of the sun's current location and other important solar information.

WeatherPro

Price £1.49/$2.99
Developer MeteoGroup

A great looking app that is also impressively detailed, WeatherPro can give weather updates in three-hour intervals as well as offering multiple satellite and heat map based graphics to cover every angle on the weather wherever you happen to be.

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